

The Middlebury Campus

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SGA Announces Course Eval Site

By Christian Jambora

The Student Government Association (SGA) will launch MiddCourses, a new site for students and professors to view course evaluations. The site will be open to all students in early April, after spring break.

"The point of this project is to create a better platform on which students can share course evaluations," said SGA President Rachel Liddell '15, who has been seeking sources for more reliable and consistent student reviews beyond Rate My Professor and MiddKid.com since her election last spring.

"There is pretty significant sentiment that [MiddKid] falls short of what people want," Liddell said. "The data are out of date, and it's not a visually clean site."

Once MiddCourses launches, students will log into the site with their College email addresses. In order to see reviews, students will be required to submit two evaluations per semester.

"In that manner, people who want to use the data will also have to contribute to the data," Liddell said.

Instead of having users manually enter in names of classes and professors, MiddCourses automatically adds classes being offered in the next semester to its database. This is intended to prevent the misspellings and inaccuracies found on MiddKid.com.

Liddell also noted that reviews on MiddKid and Rate My Professor tend to be polarized and unrealistic.

"A lot of the reviewers are either really angry or really happy," she said. "[The submission require-

ment] will help keep the polarization issue at bay."

In addition, MiddCourses will make helpful reviews more visible to users. Entries will be reviewed and extremely negative and unhelpful reviews will have the potential to be removed.

"We want to encourage respectful, high-quality comments and reviews," SGA Director of Technology Dana Silver '16 said.

Silver has been working closely with Liddell and Teddy Knox '15 on the development of MiddCourses since September. In its early stages, they knew they wanted to make the site something the entire student body could contribute to.

"We decided to make the website open source," Silver said. When a website is open-source, students will be able to see the code running on the site, download that code and contribute to it.

"Say a student notices a bug on the website," Silver said. "If the student wanted to, [he or she] could go online and copy the source code to their computer, fix or patch the bug, and then open a pull request against our code. If we approve the code, then we would merge it into the site."

The open-source code and student contributions work to make MiddCourses something that students feel they have ownership of, for it will be constantly evolving to provide the type of information that students are looking for.

"This is something that students have been wanting for a while now, in terms of having more transparency related to classes," SGA Chief of Staff Jake Nonweiler '14 said. "It

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SNOW MELT TRIGGERS ALARM



KYLE FINCK

Four firetrucks were called to Forest Hall on Saturday, March 15 after a carbon monoxide alarm went off. The alarm was found to have malfunctioned after snow got caught inside a vent and began to melt. The building was evacuated and all rooms in Forest East were tested for the gas.

Spring Symposium Set to Impress

By David Yang

The Spring Student Symposium, in which students present their academic and creative research and thesis work to the community, will begin on the evening of Thursday, April 10. The symposium, which is in its eighth year, is being held a week earlier than in past years to accommodate for Easter the following weekend.

In 2007, 94 students presented at the symposium, which at the time was a one-day event. Over the last few years, the number has increased to more than 300, with 368 students participating in total last year. A Thursday evening keynote address and introductory celebration were added to the program in 2011. Over the past few years, the symposium also

saw an increase in the participation of younger students. While this year's symposium will feature more poster presentations and fewer oral presentations than last year, the total number of participants will be comparable to last year's number.

"I'm expecting [the number] to be very similar to last year's, so we'll probably end up with around 350 students participating in different ways," said Lisa Gates, Associate Dean for Fellowships and Research and co-chair of the Symposium Committee.

The symposium includes presentations in a variety of formats and across different disciplines.

"The goal has always been to recognize the work that Middlebury students do in a broad spectrum of sub-disciplines," said Pat

Manley, Professor of Geology and co-chair of the Symposium Committee. "It's a way for the community to see the breadth and depth that our students investigate things in."

The structure and order of the presentations is also interdisciplinary in nature.

"The members of the Session Committee read through all the abstracts and organize the different sessions," Gates said. "They look for connections between different disciplines and projects and come up with a really interesting interdisciplinary frame for the session."

In past years, presentations have proven helpful for undergraduates who are still trying to decide on a major.

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RECENT GRADS SPEAK TO UNEMPLOYMENT



NESTOR MARTINEZ

Ashley Guzman '13 speaks during the "Pounding the Pavement: Voices of Recent Alumni" panel as part of the Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs' "Youth Unemployment in Times of Crisis" symposium. Four unemployed recent graduates participated in the panel.

Food Studies Starving for Profs.

By Viviana Altamirano

Two Iowa State University professors gave lectures as candidates for a senior faculty position in the College's burgeoning Food Studies program on March 18.

"We're advertising for one position, but on the basis of this visit, we found a way to broaden the search to accommodate potentially two positions," Vice President for Academic Affairs Tim Spears said. "We understand that this is an unusual and important enough search that we want to be accommodating to different sorts of applications."

The lectures of Dr. Laura Merrick from the Department of Agronomy and Dr. Matthew Liebman, the Henry A. Wallace Endowed Chair in Sustainable Agriculture highlight the College's intent to establish an integrated Food Studies program.

The Educational Affairs

Committee has been working to establish a Food Studies minor since the fall of 2012. The committee then decided to hire a scientist who has expertise in the area of sustainable agriculture who could also help create the curriculum in Food Studies. While there are courses on Food Studies being taught, there is a lack of expertise in this area at the College.

"This will likely be a free-standing position and it won't be officially tied to a particular department necessarily," Spears said.

"We're also conscious of the fact that the position will be closely tied to one or more of the science departments and Environmental Studies. We want to think critically about where to physically and figuratively position the individual who will fill this position," he added.

The interest for a Food Studies program has come from

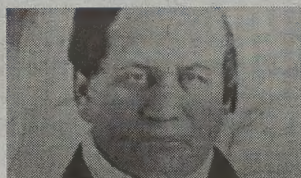
a number of different directions and reflects the varying academic disciplines that might eventually comprise the Food Studies program.

"One of the things that we've discovered about Food Studies is that the entryway into the study of food can come from a number of areas," Spears said. "At this point we're hiring a scientist, but there are other ways in which one could think about Food Studies. You can think about it from a geographical perspective, you can come at it from an economic point of view, and you can come at it from cultural or historical point of view."

In response to growing interest in Food Studies, the College has also developed FoodWorks, "Middlebury's signature internship program for students interested in local food and sustainable development." FoodWorks

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MEET ATWATER'S FIRST COOK: TAMMY IFFLAND PAGE 13



WHAT TO EXPECT FROM SWING EXPRESS PAGE 15

Students to Showcase Research

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"One of the most fabulous things about the symposium is that for undergrads, it is a great opportunity to see what kinds of work students are doing in different departments and programs, talk to them, [and] get a sense of their research methodologies and the questions they are focusing on," Gates said.

For presenters, participating in the symposium can be a way to prepare for the real world.

"The symposium is actually modeled after how you would go to a national meeting," Manley said. "We want students to enjoy themselves but it is also a more professional way of growing."

For seniors like Ben Kallas '14, the symposium will be a chance to showcase their senior work.

"[Given] the amount of work I've put into the thesis and the relevant nature of the topic I want to give a presentation to anyone who is interested in hearing about it," Kallas wrote in an email. His oral presentation will focus on information technology's effects on insurgents.

Alison Cook '16, who will be presenting a poster about a research project titled "Optogenetic Control of Neurotransmitter Transport," is also excited to share her research with a broad audience.

"There is so much incredible work going on behind the scenes ... that most people don't get to see," Cook wrote in an email. "I think the spring symposium is a great way to let these students share their hard work."

The keynote speaker, novelist, journalist and activist Vendela Vida '93, will speak at the Mahaney Center for the Arts on the evening of April 10. Vida will also be moderating one of the oral presentation sessions on Friday, April 11.

"This is a rare occasion for us as a college community to both explore and celebrate the interesting and impressive work that our students are doing through their studies here," Gates said.

MCAB's WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MIDDLEBURY?

Crossroads Trivia Night

You've read enough BuzzFeed articles in your midterm procrastination to win as a team of your own. Join forces with friends and show your peers whose useless knowledge reigns supreme!

THURSDAY AT 9 P.M.

HAVE A RELAXING SPRING BREAK!

CHECK BACK IN APRIL FOR NEW PROGRAMMING AND WARMER WEATHER (HOPEFULLY).



LIS Survey Looks at Use Patterns

By Jack Ravery

The Middlebury Library and Information Services (LIS) conducted the Measuring Information Service Outcomes (MISO) survey earlier this month and is planning to announce its results in the next few weeks.

These results will allow LIS to detect areas of the different Internet platforms managed by both the Library and the Information Technology departments that need improvement.

Middlebury was one of five schools to participate in the pilot of the MISO survey when it was introduced in the fall of 2005. The survey has thereafter been conducted biennially at many colleges around the country, including 39 this year with 15 new participating schools for a total of 99 participating institutions.

The survey targets higher education institutions that have merged library and IT departments. It provides a framework to assess the satisfaction, importance and frequency of use levels for many of the services offered through these different establishments.

"[The survey will be used to] gauge

"We use the results to evaluate what services [are] important, but maybe have a lower satisfaction level than we would like."

TERRY SIMPKINS
LIS DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

satisfaction, importance and frequency of use for various library and IT services, reference services, eBook collections, email use and Moodle," said Terry Simpkins, LIS director of research and instructional services. In past years, LIS

has had notable difficulties with wireless printing, and new services, such as the Portal, have struggled to gain traction among the student body.

The results of these surveys are presented at different conferences around the United States, such as the EDUCAUSE Annual Conference. The

results are also shared with members of the Council on Library and Information Resources' Chief Information Officers group.

This year, 700 Middlebury College students, faculty and staff members were randomly selected to take the survey. The College's 61.7 percent participation rate exceeded the national response rate of 53 percent.

"We use the results to evaluate what services we evaluate to be important, but maybe have a lower satisfaction level than we would like, and we try to see who are the common culprits; printing, wireless, amongst others," Simpkins said.

GlobeMed Hosts Dodgeball Fundraiser

By Annie Grayer

On Saturday, March 15, GlobeMed at Middlebury held a dodgeball tournament to raise money for Gardens for Health International.

GlobeMed is a national organization that has chapters at over 50 college campuses across the U.S. Each chapter is partnered with a unique, non-governmental organization to address health disparities and improve global health. The College's chapter is paired with Gardens for Health International (GHI), which is located in Rwanda.

Students in GlobeMed are educated and trained to advocate for a long-lasting solution to chronic childhood malnutrition. Through its partnerships with grassroots leaders and the Rwandan government, GlobeMed works to give families the tools, knowledge and resources to create a sustainable solution to nutritional independence, rooted in prevention and self-sufficiency rather than dependency on short-term food aid.

Since its partnership started in Fall 2011, GlobeMed at Middlebury College and GHI have raised \$15,000 to support the organization's efforts.

This year's grant money is focused on the capacity-building needs of the organization. Inspired by their experiences working with GHI in Rwanda last summer, Cate Stanton '15 and Ryan Brewster '14 decided that fundraisers targeted towards funding operational expenses, such as transportation costs and staffing needs, would help the most to expand GHI's impact on the surrounding community.

Stanton, Margaret Reed '14 and the rest of the GlobeMed promoted, advertised and staffed the tournament. In total, five teams played, and each team paid a \$5 entry fee. Greg Swartz '17.5 competed in the tournament on the Channel Four News Team – he promised that even though his team did not win a single game, "we've got everyone right where we want them for next year." Participants agreed that they would like

"It really lets us get some empirical data instead of gut reaction or anecdotal evidence. I pitch the different trends in order to plan our priorities to set goals in the coming years; it's not a survey that is put in the drawer," he added.

LIS uses this information in order to ameliorate the community members' access to platforms such as Moodle, the eBooks or even Bannerweb.

"We not only ask [MISO] to compare the Middlebury results across time, but also to compare Middlebury's results with those of other institutions," Simpkins said.

The survey allows the College to compare its services with those of other institutions as well as with satisfaction in past years.

"Based on previous surveys, a recurring issue that arose concerned copyright advice," Simpkins said, adding that the LIS was looking into ways to improve this parameter.

The survey will be distributed to different areas within LIS, such as Curricular Technologies, the Helpdesk and Inter-library loan systems for closer analysis.

"[The teams] are then able to identify what factors they have control over, and how they could change them if they need some help," Simpkins said. "For example, the technology help desk will look at the survey and see what the consensus is about that."

to participate in this event in the future.

Stanton states that although the club did not reach its financial goal, they hope the tournament will become a popular event in the future. To improve for next year, Stanton says the club will not host the event on the morning of St. Patrick's Day, and will do more to market and endorse the event.

GlobeMed's objective of providing a lasting solution for nutrition underscores the college's interest in international affairs, providing aid at different geographical scales, and applying classroom concepts to real world situations.

GlobeMed has several events planned for the rest of the semester, including an April 4 concert featuring student bands, a five-kilometer race and an event at Two Brothers Tavern. The club is also hosting a screening of the film *Escape Fire* on April 1 and is hosting speaker Joel Lamstein from John Snow Inc. on April 21. Both events will be free and open to students and members of the community.

LECTURES SCHEDULED TO AID FACULTY SEARCH

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places students in paid internships in Louisville, Kentucky and Vermont that focus on local food economy. Participants also engage in a curriculum that includes sustainable agriculture, nutrition, food security, culture, and traditions.

"There are educational outcomes built into the program, which provide a nice connection back to the curriculum we're trying to develop," Spears said. "When you work on agriculture, you're already outside the classroom, literally, doing work out on the land, and there's a natural bridge between laboratory classrooms and the world outside the classroom."

Spears also noted that the College hopes to craft the Food Studies program in a way that maintains a global orientation.

"We have been identifying possibilities for students to study food abroad. That means going through our study abroad programs and seeing what kind

of curricular opportunities there are at our partner institutions—institutions where Middlebury students are already studying, for students to study food, agriculture and other related subjects."

The College is now a member of the Vermont Higher Education Food Systems Consortium.

Spears indicated that the consortium comes together in order to help the local economy grow and to establish jobs in the Vermont agricultural economy.

"It's very clearly focused on economic issues, but to get to those economic issues, this group is focusing on ways in which it can collaborate, and make use of their educational resources together, to do work together," Spears said. "It's a fascinating and exciting opportunity for all these Vermont colleges and universities to

connect with one another."

Spears noted that at the crux of the Food Studies program is a desire to balance growing interest in locally-sourced food with the necessity of feeding the hungry.

"There's a tension between the desire to eat locally grown food, to grow food and vegetables in a particular kind of way, to pay attention to the environmental and political considerations ... But there's this other huge global issue, which has to do with trying to meet the [food and nutritional] needs of the world. That's a challenge that I think Middlebury students need

to learn more about. There are debates and such, but there ought to be space within our curriculum, venues on campus, where these kinds of issues can be discussed."

"... there ought to be space within our curriculum ... where [food-related] issues can be discussed."

TIM SPEARS
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Staff Undeterred by Late Winter Storm

By Emily Singer

A late winter blizzard on Thursday, March 13 blanketed the campus with over a foot of snow. Despite treacherous roads, high winds and inaccessible sidewalks, the College conducted daily operations as usual, albeit with a limited staff.

Many of the College's staff members were unable to come to work due to impassable roads or had to stay home with their children because schools were closed for the day.

Before sunrise on Thursday, facilities services began clearing emergency access areas from buildings on campus. According to Assistant Director of Maintenance and Operations Luther Tenny, there are typically 14 equipment operators and 30 hand shovelers clearing snow across campus. Depending on the day, custodial teams in certain buildings may also offer assistance in removing snow.

"Thursday was not a typical storm," Tenny wrote in an email. "Many staff were unable to make it in because of the drifting snow but thankfully most of our plow operators were here. We also utilized two additional pieces of heavy equipment (a backhoe and a front-end loader) through a local contractor for help."

"For shovel crews we had about 25 working most of the day moving snow from the entries," Tenny added. Non-essential tasks, such as plowing less-trafficked sidewalks, were left for either late Thursday afternoon or Friday.

While Facilities Services staff was busy ensuring that the College's roads were clear, surrounding routes were not so accessible.

"One of my employees was heading out on Wednesday afternoon and almost went off the road at 'The Ledges' on Route 125 just a few miles west of here," wrote Director of Dining Services Matthew Biette in an email. "Others reported not being able to see

the road and when they did, they were in the wrong lane. Bottom line, it was white out conditions and very dangerous to drive or walk."

Biette began preparing for Thursday's storm over two days before it hit, contacting suppliers and making purchases days in advance with the concern that the storm was going to hinder travel.

"The bakery had already delivered breakfast and lunch products for Thursday on Wednesday, the Proctor salad preparation was stocked up and the refrigerators and stock rooms were full with a double order to be sure our students would be taken care of," said Biette.

"Our staffing on a regular day is enough to produce the various foods and extras offered each day — everyone's day is full," Biette wrote, alluding to the Panini presses in Proctor being shut off and the Proctor Fireplace Lounge remaining locked on Thursday to allow staff to focus on more important tasks at hand.

When Biette left for work on Thursday morning, the sidewalks in town were inaccessible. By 6 a.m., Facilities Services had already begun digging pathways on campus.

"Arriving at the dining rooms and kitchens, I was surprised and happy to see very few people out and/or late," Biette wrote. "In some areas, schedules were changed so those who lived closer [to the College] were [given] opening [shifts], thus giving those who lived farther away more time to make it to work safely."

Custodial Services was not as fortunate as Dining Services — out of 80 custodial staff, 43 were unable to come to work because of the weather and another 10 had scheduled the day off in advance.

When attendance is low, "staff are re-assigned to buildings other than those they nor-

mally work in if another team is very short [on people]," Assistant Director of Custodial Services Sylvia Manning wrote in an email.

Dining and residence halls were prioritized over most academic buildings on Thursday, and priority tasks included checking for hazards such as broken items, checking trash bins and restocking paper products in restrooms.

Due to impassable road conditions, Parton Center for Health and Wellness was unable to open at its usual 8 a.m. hour for the first time ever. In past years, and only on very rare occasions, Parton has closed early or announced limited hours because of the weather.

The first staff member arrived at 9:30 a.m., and more people arrived as they were able to, said Administrative Director of the Parton Center for Health and Wellness Terry Jenny. By 10:30 a.m., there was sufficient staff for Parton to open its doors.

"Everyone does their best to get in on time and as soon as they can," Jenny said, noting that safety is a priority and that staff members across campus put in maximum effort to ensure that operations run smoothly.

While Parton was delayed in opening, its back-up network of health and counseling services was activated and advertised.

"When the need is urgent and Parton Counseling is closed, students can get the help they need by reaching out to Public Safety ... or to the Addison County emergency team or Porter Hospital," Director of Counseling Services Ximena Mejia wrote in an email. "We always have a counselor on call ... and during unexpected closures, we check our phone messages and emails several times each hour."

While the snow prevented some from arriving at work, many braved treacherous roads and white-out conditions to arrive at the College.

"Bottom line is there is a tremendously dedicated staff who brave the elements to get here when it is necessary," wrote Biette. "Thankfully, everyone arrived safely."

MIDDCOURSES TO LAUNCH IN APRIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

started out as wanting to have course evaluation forms at the end of every semester released to students, but that's not going to happen and will not happen."

The development of MiddCourses has made some members of the faculty uneasy. The SGA is working to combat and clear up such concerns.

"The Faculty Council doesn't really believe that publicizing the reviews is a good idea," Nonweiler said. "As it works currently, the only people who have access to the course evaluations we fill out at the end of every semester are the professors for the course being evaluated, the chair of the department, and a few members of the administration. They're very highly guarded."

Likewise, the implementation of the site has not been met with administrative support.

"The Administration repeatedly advised the SGA not to pursue the idea of a course evaluation site. They do not support the implementation of the site," Liddell added.

To appease the faculty, professors will have access to MiddCourses, but in a very limited capacity.

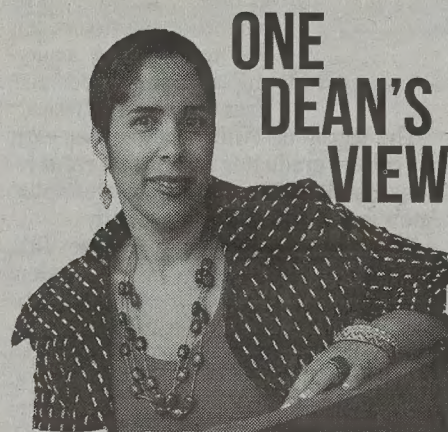
"It works very similarly to how the paper reviews [at the end of every semester] work now, where professors can't view reviews for other professors," Silver said. "They can log on, but they can't create reviews and they are limited to viewing only reviews for their own courses."

Liddell further explained the limited faculty access by noting that student reviews should not play a role in tenure decisions.

MiddCourses will be undergoing a soft launch, fine-tuning and preparing itself for class registration later this spring.

"The site is just better-looking and more fun to use," said Liddell. "We're hoping there will be a desire [among students] to read reviews, write reviews and be a part of it."

PEOPLE YOU HAVEN'T REALLY MET YET



ONE
DEAN'S
VIEW

When I go to 51 Main, I feel as though I am close to a little piece of home (Brooklyn, New York) because I run into all types of people there. Not just students. Not just townspeople. But everyone imaginable. They are enjoying a shared interest, mingling, being together in the same place. Worlds collide there in a way that feels comfortable. But on campus, this sort of mingling does not occur as much as I would like, and I feel we are worse off for it.

Why should we care? I believe that Middlebury, considering its relative isolation geographically, is a place that people have intentionally come to—to live, work, and learn. Some of the most fascinating people have been drawn to Middlebury. As life-long learners, we have a unique opportunity to meet others and learn from them in an organic way. Furthermore, people generally feel more "whole" when they are part of a larger community that extends across the boundaries of multiple identities.

Community Council is such a group—a melded association of students, faculty, and staff, and as co-chair I feel very fortunate to be part of it. This year, we have discussed the fact that faculty, staff and students don't connect more easily outside their usual spheres, and we have wondered what can be done to change that. Luke Carroll Brown '14, Community Council co-

chair, has described his own experience when he opened himself to making new connections: "Some of my closest friends at the College, individuals who have taught me far more than I've learned in most classrooms, are members of the staff."

When I go to the Wilson Café, I see students and some faculty there, but very few staff. At Crossroads Café, I usually see staff and faculty, but many students still view it as "institutional" space. I am not surprised that I don't see many faculty or staff members unwinding after work over a cup of coffee—and possibly a conversation with someone new. It seems that we all revolve in separate orbits, with just a few intersections. When faculty members aren't teaching and working with students, they are busy with their scholarship and personal lives. Staff members have jobs to do during the day (or night), and then they go home to the other aspects of their lives. And students are busy with their studies and personal interests and are most likely to associate with fellow students.

Feeling busy is probably a major reason that people don't spend time breaking social barriers. A colleague told me about an experience she had when her computer broke, and she had to stop everything to go to the Help Desk. She didn't have time, she said, to spend an afternoon there. But afterwards, she was glad it happened.

While she waited in the Help Desk office as they recovered her lost data, she met students, a math professor, a writing instructor, and a grant writer who wandered in with one problem or another. They all sat around the table, commiserating and chatting. "I met for the first time someone I'd corresponded with for years by e-mail," she said.

That's what I'd like to see happen more regularly on campus—more organic connections, like those that occurred at the Help Desk and at 51 Main. The question is, how to get them to occur? Can we create spaces that encourage them? Can we all develop the mindset to find them?



Blues Jam

WEDNESDAY 8:00-10:00PM

Join us every 3rd Wednesday for Blues Jam. Dennis Willmott from Left Eye Jump will provide lead guitar, bass, and drums and these guys will back you up or take a break and let you play. All musicians and blues fans are welcome! Everyone will get a chance to play.

Get Into The Loop with Gerry Dineen Music

THURSDAY 9:00-10:00PM

Gerry Dineen is a live looping solo artist with an extensive repertoire of cover songs spanning more than four decades. A versatile vocalist with rock roots, Gerry is a virtual one man band as he creates layers of tones, rhythms, and instrumentation using his incredible looping techniques along with a variety of guitar effects. Everything he performs on stage is done on the spot (nothing is pre-recorded) and audiences are amazed at what he can create right in front of their eyes/ears.

Paradiddles

THURSDAY 8:00-9:00PM

The Middlebury Paradiddles is an all-female a cappella group whose repertoire includes a variety of musical styles—from R&B to classic rock to country.

Connect Four

FRIDAY 8:00-9:30PM

Connect Four is a quartet featuring Marcelo Hanta-Davis (Alto Sax), Oziah Wales (Piano), Simon Broucke (Bass), and Mark Pettit (Drums). The group interprets and performs different jazz standards in its own unique way.

Revisiting Middlebury's Racial History

By Conor Grant

Alexander Twilight Hall — the austere brick building separating the town from Middlebury College — is named for Alexander Twilight, the 1823 Middlebury College graduate who is known today as the first American black college graduate.

Today, Twilight is widely touted as an example of Middlebury's rich legacy of inclusivity and racial diversity.

But who exactly was Alexander Twilight? Was he really the first black man at Middlebury?

The answer to that question is more complicated than it might first appear.

Twilight was born in 1795 in Corinth, Vt. His father was a free mulatto named Ichabod Twilight who fought in for the Union in the American Revolution, thereby earning his freedom.

While slave plantations were unique to southern states, slavery was nonetheless widespread in New England in the 18th century.

While Vermont nominally prohibited slavery in 1777, the indenture of blacks continued for decades.

Despite early state legislation, Vermont businessmen seized on the imprecise wording of the statute — which guaranteed that no adult be indentured — to exploit young black individuals for labor. Accordingly, Alexander Twilight became an indentured servant as a young man.

Some scholars see the practice as se-



COURTESY OF MIDDLEBURY

A picture of Alexander Twilight shows his indeterminate racial appearance.

lective slavery, whereas others view it as a system of apprenticeship meant to provide social welfare to impoverished and disenfranchised blacks.

"Children frequently were indentured to a neighbor to learn a craft or a skill," explained Middlebury College Associate Professor of History Bill Hart.

Whether labeled "slavery" or "apprenticeship," Alexander Twilight's indentured farm work prevented him from going to school as a young man. However, he worked for wages on the weekends and was able to earn his freedom a year early.

At 20, Twilight enrolled in the Orange County Grammar School in Randolph, Vt., where he undertook an accelerated course of study. He spent five years there before enrolling at Middlebury as a third-year student.

When Twilight was admitted, Middlebury administrators did not know that he was black. In fact, few acquaintances of Twilight knew of his ancestry at all.

"Throughout his lifetime we can not find evidence to suggest that he identified as [black]," Hart said.

In fact, most who knew him assumed Twilight was white. Twilight's apparent 'whiteness,' however, was not always readily accepted. An initial census listed his family as, "all other free persons except Indians not taxed by the government," Hart said. "All other free people" could mean free blacks, unaffiliated Indians, [or] mixed race people."

In every census from 1810 onward, the Twilights are listed as white.

The reason for this switch is likely the absence of Alexander's father Ichabod from the family picture.

Ichabod's fate is not known for certain, but scholars believe he passed away when Alexander was a young boy. When the census examiners returned in 1810, he no longer

lived with the rest of the Twilight family.

Twilight's mother was a 'quadroon,' or a quarter black, so Twilight was reclassified as white. This characterization followed him for the rest of his life.

"He neither embraced nor rejected his racial identity," Hart said.

"The fact that he was mixed-race added another obstacle," explained Peggy Day Gibson, the director of the Old Stone House Museum — the site of a school for which Twilight was headmaster from 1829 to his death in 1857, in a 2013 statement. The obstacle was smaller, she asserted, "because he could pass for white."

In the years after Twilight's matriculation from the College, race became an increasingly controversial issue across New England.

In the 1820's and the 1830's, the Second Great Awakening precipitated the emergence of a number of social movements in New England, including abolitionism.

Early abolitionists fell into three primary categories: immediatists, who argued for the immediate abolition of slavery and incorporation of black people into the republic, gradualists, who advocated a gradual process of integration, and colonizationists, who thought that free blacks should establish new settlements in Africa.

At Middlebury, Colonization theory predominated. The American Colonization Society was formed in 1816 with the principal objective of establishing a black Republic in Liberia. Benjamin Labaree, Middlebury's fourth president, was a vocal colonizationist who served as the President of the Vermont Auxiliary Colonization Society.

In the years after Twilight, Labaree and other Middlebury students and faculty debated the merits of colonizationism and the future role of black people in American society.

In exceptional instances, by the early 19th century elite mulattos began to infiltrate the overwhelmingly homogeneous institutions of New England.

In 1826, Edward Jones, a prominent mulatto from Charleston, S.C., and John Brown Russwurm, a Jamaican-born black man, graduated from Amherst College and Bowdoin College, respectively. A West-Indian born black man named Edward Mitchell was admitted to Dartmouth in 1824 after pressure from students, and became Dartmouth's first black graduate in 1828.

Jones, Russwurm and Mitchell were all publicly mixed-race at their graduations, unlike Alexander Twilight.

By the 1830's, however, abolitionists were clamoring for wider racial acceptance.

In 1845, Middlebury, Dartmouth, Williams, Amherst and the University of Vermont each received recommendations for four black prospective students from Philadelphia. They all rejected the applicants.

In justifying his assertion that, "Middlebury is not designed especially for the colored race," Middlebury President Labaree couched his argument in geography. "Middlebury is not inclined particularly to encourage negroes from all parts of the country to resort here for education," but, "Colored young men in Vt. and States adjacent, who would naturally fall to us, we will cheerfully receive."

Despite Labaree's argument for the prioritization of local students, white students came from a number of states, including Pennsylvania.

Reverend Mitchell, a colonizationist pastor in Rutland, helped Labaree respond to allegations of inconsistency by writing a letter of recommendation for nineteen-year old black Rutland resident, Martin Freeman. Seizing on the opportunity to shore up Middlebury's reputation in the anti-slavery community, Labaree chose to accept Freeman.

Unlike Alexander Twilight's admission, Freeman's admission was well-publicized and controversial. Despite his self-professed unease at the all-white school, Freeman excelled at Middlebury and became class salutatorian when he graduated in 1849.

After Freeman graduated he emigrated to Liberia, joining Amherst's Jones and Bowdoin's Russwurm in fulfilling early colonizationists' aspirations to send educated black Americans back to Africa.

For decades after Freeman, only a handful of black students — no more than one per year — were admitted to the College. Among



COURTESY OF MIDDLEBURY

Twilight '23, namesake of the Twilight Building, was the first black college graduate.

those admitted was Middlebury's first black female student, Mary Annette Anderson, who graduated in 1899. The prestigious Bronx School of Science contributed many of Middlebury's black matriculants in the early 20th century.

In 1962, *The Campus* published an editorial warning the college administration that "an absence of Negroes during the current revolution in race relations would be a grave deficiency in any college."

It was not until the galvanization of the Civil Rights movement in the late 1960's and the pivotal assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that the number of black students at Middlebury slowly began to rise.

The *Campus* published an article in 1965 headlined "20 Negroes Apply for Admission to Class of '69" that celebrated the sharp increase in black applications to Middlebury — up from a single application just three years earlier.

In 1970, Middlebury created a "Dean of Diversity" position, and fifteen years later created a diversity panel called "The Twilight Committee."

Concomitant with increases in the admission of blacks at Middlebury in the 1960's and 1970's came increased scrutiny of Middlebury's past racial history.

Alexander Twilight's story was virtually unknown until 1971, when an edition of the Middlebury College newsletter featured an article about "the first black American college graduate — Alexander Lucius Twilight class of 1823."

The timing rediscovery of Alexander Twilight's blackness was no accident.

Following the Civil Rights movement, Amherst College asserted that Edward Jones, Amherst class of 1826, had been the first black college graduate in America. Not to be outdone, Middlebury College histori-

ans dredged up old census data to indicate that Alexander Twilight had been the nation's first college graduate — despite his ambiguous racial identity whilst a student at Middlebury.

Owing to Twilight's undisclosed racial identity as a student, his admission graduation was not monumental during his lifetime as it is now — for all intents and purposes, he was just another free 'white' man graduating from a small liberal arts school.

Middlebury is not alone among academic institutions in its revisionist evaluation of racial history. An article published in the New York Times last Sunday headlined "New Contenders Emerge in Quest to Identify Yale's First African-American Graduate" describes the messy and imprecise process of identifying early college graduates on the basis of tenuous racial associations.

Admissions policies at Middlebury and other institutions shifted widely due to changing leadership and shifting perspectives on race in America.

The legacy of Twilight and other early black college graduates remains relevant today, as Middlebury continues to attempt to create a racially diverse student body.

In 2005, a Middlebury College Task Force on the Composition of the Student Body outlined a goal of "increase[ing] the number of U.S. students of color who graduate to 15 percent within six years."

In 2012, only 5.4 percent of the members of Middlebury's freshman class were black. In 2012, the percentages of black students in freshman the classes at both Williams College and Wesleyan University were more than double Middlebury's percentage.

Middlebury's racial landscape is still shifting. As the College continues to strive for a diverse student body in the future, a nuanced and critical reflection on both the shortcomings and the successes of Middlebury's racial history is necessary to form an appropriate plan for Middlebury's future.

"We cannot find evidence to suggest that [Twilight] identified as [black]."

BILL HART
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY



COURTESY PYECHAMBERLAYNE.COM

Members of the Colonization Society received certificates of their membership.

New Female Pastor in Middlebury

By Sarah Koenigsberg

Upon opening her inbox, Reverend Stephanie Allen noticed one unread email from an interesting source: Middlebury's Memorial Baptist Church. The email turned out to contain a job offer, which Allen decided to take, and thereby become the town's first female pastor.

Allen's role at the church involves a number of duties beyond planning worship and preaching. She teaches bible studies, provides counseling for the congregation, and is available for visitation. She will also occasionally conduct services off site.

Reverend Allen arrived two weeks ago from Cleveland, Ohio, where she spent the past sixteen years of her life. Allen earned her Masters of Divinity and Doctorate in Hebrew from Ashland University during her first several years there. Later, she helped with ministerial work at a local church.

Prior to Ashland, Allen obtained her

undergraduate degree from University of New Hampshire, where her husband also studied. She credits this as part of the reason that her family was willing to make the big move. "It was a big decision, but my husband went to UNH also and we both really wanted to get back to this area," she stated in an interview.

Along with her husband, Allen's five children have joined her in Middlebury. She admits that having children has added to the difficulties she faces, especially as a female in a profession that consists predominantly of males. Allen says that many people ask her how she manages five kids plus the congregation, "which is never a question you would ask a man."

In the U.S., the vast majority of church ministers are male, despite reforms that have allowed women to be ordained. The branch Allen belongs to, The American Baptist Church, has been open to female ministers since 1830. Still, only approxi-

mately 12 percent of the ordained members are women.

When asked why she thinks this pattern of male dominance persists, Allen cited many peoples' discomfort with female clergy.

"There are still a lot of denominations that are not accepting of it, and people have never been exposed to it," she stated, "so they just can't wrap their mind around what that would even be like."

Women also face compensatory discrimination from the church itself. "They call it the stained glass ceiling in ministry work, when men get paid a lot more," said Allen. Despite these challenges, Allen shares that she was never intimidated by her career. She has nine ministers in her family, two of which are female.

However, Allen's gender has only been one factor that has made her stand out in her profession.

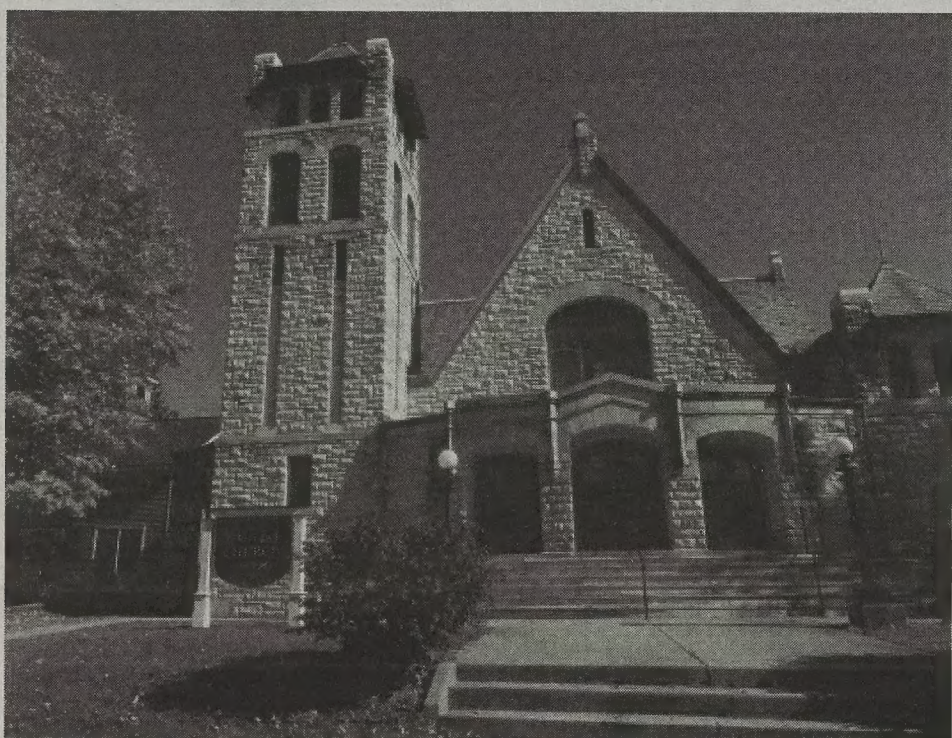
"More than my gender has really been my age," Allen said, sharing that she was the youngest at seminary. Many women who do decide to get ordained do it as a second career, resulting in a higher average age.

Accordingly, Allen is excited for the youthful demographic that accompanies a college town like Middlebury. The American Baptist Church actively reaches out to Middlebury College by holding bible studies on campus. This involvement is one major reason the position appealed to Allen.

Allen also enjoys the wide range of education that exists in the congregation as a result of the college.

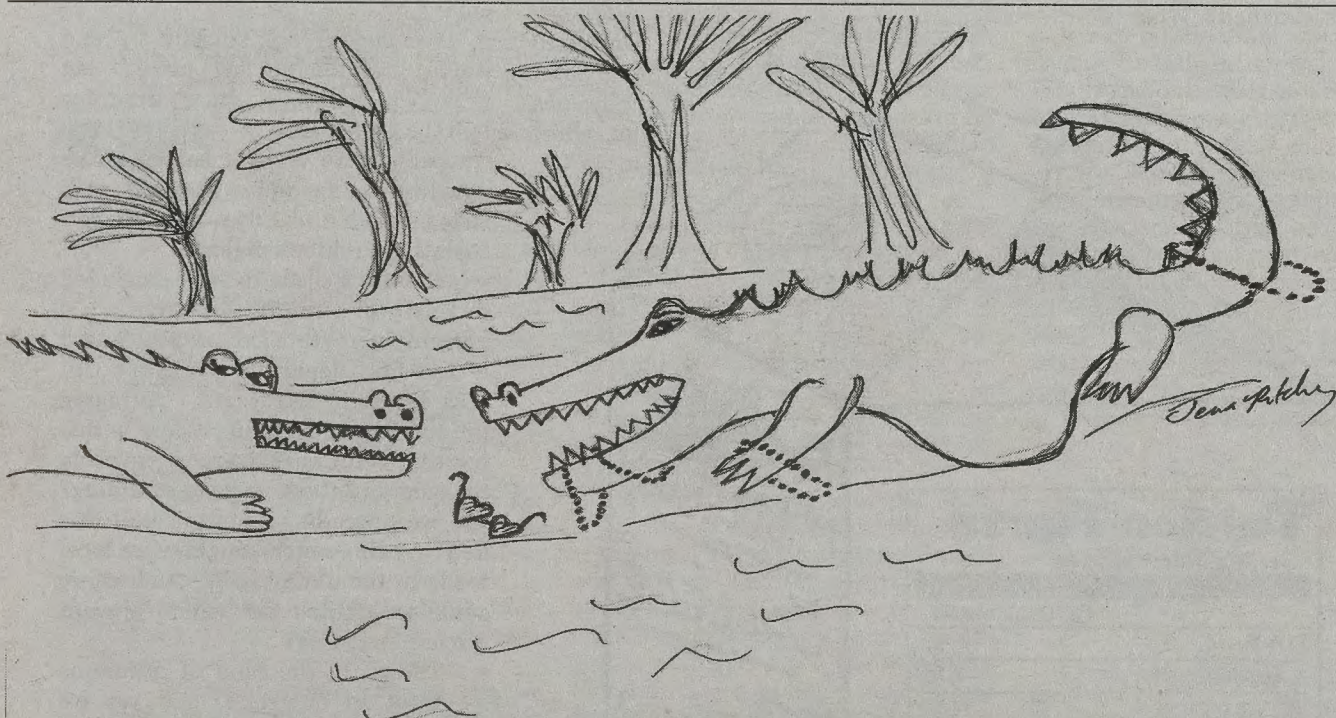
"I feel like you get the best of a small town but then you also get the academic aspect of it."

Allen hopes her arrival will open up opportunities for more females to take up religious leadership roles in the Middlebury community. More than anything else, she believes it was acclimatize people to the idea of a female minister. "Even if people don't have strong opinion, it's just something they're not used to," Allen said. "Hopefully we can normalize it."



COURTESY OF MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Reverend Stephanie Allen will bring her talents to the Memorial Baptist Church.



AND THIS WEEK'S WINNING CAPTIONS ARE....

"Honey I've decided to give up tourists for lent."
"Well isn't it convenient how lent always seems to fall right after Mardi Gras."

&

"I woke up in the kitchen saying how the hell am I an alligator and I'm pregnant, oh baby."

STAYED TUNED FOR NEXT WEEK'S CARTOON!

LOCAL LOWDOWN

20

"GMO OMG" Screening in Middlebury

Come on down to the Marquis Theater in Middlebury to see this film, directed by Jeremy Seifert, that shows how GMOs affect our children, the health of the planet, our freedom of choice, and what we choose to eat on a daily basis. The event is sponsored by New Chapter and Ben and Jerry's, who will provide free ice cream. There will be a Q&A with the Vermont Right to Know Coalition after the film. Admission is on a sliding scale, \$5-\$20 at the door.

MAR. 20, 7 - 10 P.M.

Marathoner John Lent Presentation in Vergennes

Run over to the Bixby Memorial Library on Friday for a fascinating presentation by distance runner and global traveler John Lent. Accomplished marathoner John Lent will give an illustrated lecture about his quest to complete marathons on seven continents. The lecture will focus on Lent's recent trips to South America and Antarctica and will highlight the people he met in his travels. A Q&A will follow. For information call 802-877-2211.

MAR. 21, 7 - 8:30 P.M.

"The Summer of Walter Hacks" Screening in Monkton

Come to the Monkton Central School this Friday for a screening of the award-winning Vermont film "The Summer of Walter Hacks." The event will benefit Monkton community events. Donations of \$5 will be accepted at the door and refreshments for sale provided by Girl Scout Cadette Troop 30166. For more information call 802-453-6067 or visit weg@gmavt.net. Learn more about the film at www.pastureproductions.com.

MAR. 21, 7:30 - 9:30 P.M.

Deb Brisson and the Hay Burners CD Release Party in Middlebury

Come on down to the Town Hall Theater to celebrate the release of the group's first album of original music, "Heart Shaped Stone." Musical guests will include Ten Rod Road, The Horse Traders and Clint Bierman. Admission will be \$15. Tickets are available at 802-388-1436 or www.townhalltheater.org.

MAR. 21, 8 - 11 P.M.

Benefit Pancake Breakfast in Bristol

Cruise on down to the Bread Loaf View Farm on Cider Mill Road if you're feeling hungry this Saturday! The meal will feature pancakes and sausage. Regular plates will be \$6, small plates will be \$4, and home fries will be \$1. Horse-drawn wagon rides will run from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and the event will feature a sap-boiling demonstration. Maple cream, maple sugar, fresh coffee and donuts will be available. Proceeds benefit the HOPE Emergency Food Shelf.

MAR. 22, 9 A.M. - 12 P.M.

Ukrainian Egg Painting Demonstration in Bristol

Looking for a new mode of creative expression? Head to the Art on Main building in downtown Bristol for a demonstration by Theresa Somerset of Essex Junction where she shows her wax-resist technique to create elaborately painted eggs. For information call 802-453-4032 or info@artonmain.net.

MAR. 22, 12 - 2 P.M.

OPINIONS

The Middlebury Campus

The Buck Stops Here

What does \$60,000 mean to you? Perhaps a couple new cars, a good chunk of a house, an annual salary in tech or finance for a recent grad or the rounded comprehensive fee at Middlebury College. In 2009, colleges like Middlebury were cresting the \$50,000 mark; now five years later, we are approaching \$60,000, a change that

has been met largely with silence and indifference.

We look around the world and see riots and protests over tuition increases in places like England, France and Canada where people are still fighting for democratic access to higher education. Take a school like McGill, where in the summer of 2012, thousands of students took to the streets to protest a \$1,625 tuition increase—almost exactly the same hike we saw at Middlebury this past year. The difference of course is that tuition at McGill was under \$3,000 prior to increase, but at the end of the day, these increases represent the same amount of money out of our pockets, or our future pockets, as the loans pile up. When does the price go from ridiculous to unacceptable?

To the College's credit, we have mostly stuck to our "CPI plus 1" rule for the past five years, which means that we have limited our tuition increases to inflation plus 1 percent. In addition, awarding financial aid to 42 percent of the student body this past year shows an impressive commitment to college accessibility. These measures have slowed our annual tuition bumps, reduced financial burdens for a number of families, and brought us from being one of the most expensive schools among our competitors to being in the bottom quartile. But is that enough? Should we really be wedded to a model of infinite growth?

Maybe it is unavoidable. Maybe a college of Middlebury's caliber needs to continue to grow — to build a new school in Korea or offer new programs like MiddCore in the summer. But are we paying for that? Adjusting for inflation is one thing; tacking on the additional 1 percent each year seems to imply growth somewhere in Middlebury's global offerings.

But what if we as consumers are not satisfied? What if we even

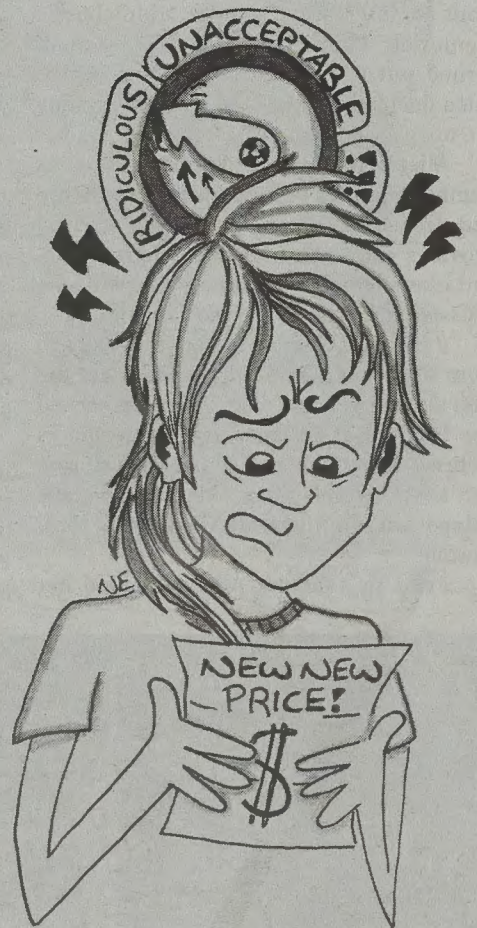
ventured to say that we already have too much? Between the Snow Bowl, the Golf Course, 51 Main, the Athletics Department, the Grille, the Museum of Art, or the Commons system, we have places and programs across all walks of life on campus that we sink money into.

The hard question that we as students can and should entertain is, how much of our considerable programming is essential and how much could we do without?

As an editorial board, we have in the past used this space to make concrete policy recommendations. But as we discussed how to cut costs and ultimately make Middlebury more accessible, we found it impossible because we did not have the information. All we have are broad assumptions and educated guesses. That needs to end. We want to know where our tuition goes. It is not good enough to say that it costs \$80,000 a year to educate one Middlebury student, and so we should just be happy with what we pay. We want the College to open up its books so that the student body can follow the money and have a say in where that money goes and how it is spent.

As the College looks to choose a successor for President Liebowitz this year, we need a candidate who is committed to cutting costs and making accessibility a bigger part of the College's mission. As we look at the goals associated with the ongoing branding effort, notably becoming more global and diverse, we cannot continue to ratchet up costs and increasingly cater to families in the top 5 percent of the income bracket in this country who can afford to pay full freight here. Access will be a barrier to becoming a national household name.

John McCardell Jr., one of the College's most influential presidents, went to work at The University of the South in Seawee, Tenn., which made



NOLAN ELLSWORTH

national news in 2011 for "bucking the trend" and cutting tuition. This is the kind of leadership we need to see here at Middlebury, but in the foreseeable future, tuition cuts do not seem likely. As long as there are multiple high school applicants glad to shell out \$60,000 for every one student that is admitted, what incentive is there to critically evaluate the tuition? Even the Board of Trustees, the people charged with a fiduciary responsibility for the wellbeing of the college, seem content with the annual hike. But there is a breaking point, and it will come.

We should not sit idly by and watch Middlebury's price tag grow exponentially. It is time for more transparency. While the comprehensive fee has served as an equalizer for incoming students, it is also a veil that obscures the College's costs and prohibits dialogue.

Here is a place to start. Included in this year's tuition hike was a 4.5 percent increase to room and board — the first departure from our CPI plus 1 rule in five years — bringing the total up to \$13,116. Where is this increase being spent? Are we covering the salary of the new head of dining? Are we upgrading a dorm? Will this help to bring much-sought-after local foods to the dining halls? And where could we tighten the belt to prevent further increases?

These are the kind of questions we want to entertain, and yet we cannot with the current lack of transparency. Vice President for Finance and Treasurer Patrick Norton and President Liebowitz, please break down this amorphous comprehensive fee and give us the facts. We are the ones paying the price for these rises, yet we are left in the dark with no say in where that money goes. As consumers of the Middlebury experience, we are in the best position to see what's being utilized and what is wasted. While we enjoy and value the services and opportunities that \$60,000 allows us, it is time to take control of our wallets and be critical of what we are paying for.

The Middlebury Campus

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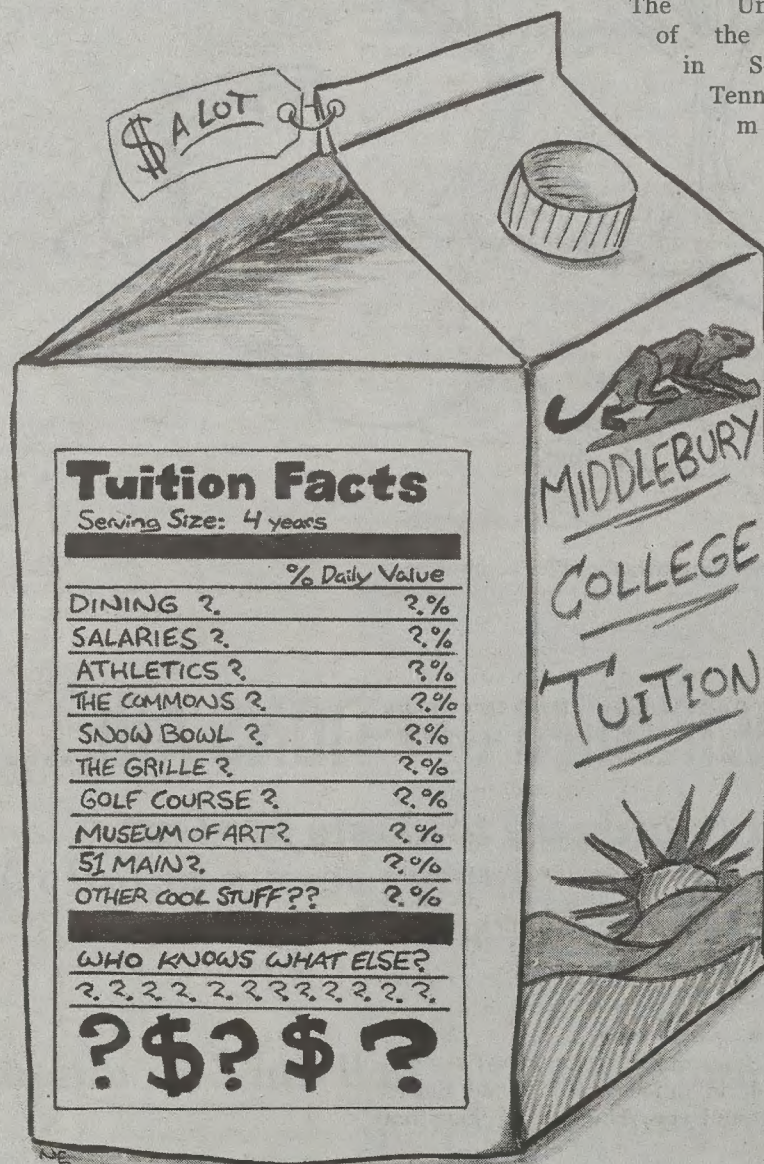
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The Opinions pages of The Middlebury Campus provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, The Campus reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. The Campus will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. The Campus welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editors, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's web site at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Sunday. The Campus reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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NOLAN ELLSWORTH

Potential Sources of Renewable Energy

Automatic Problematic

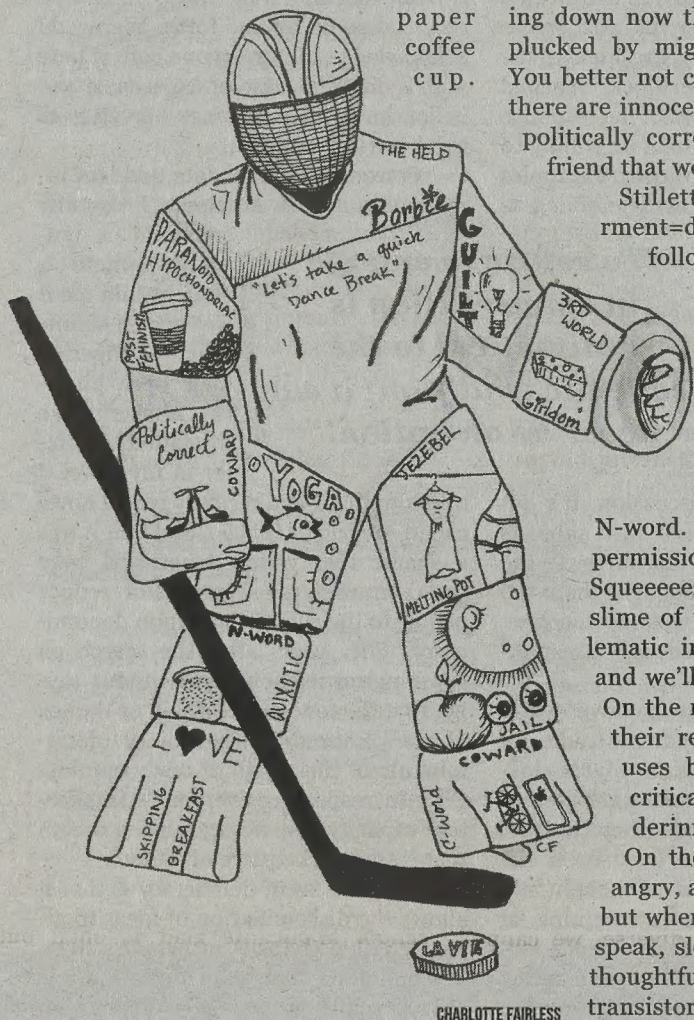
This professor's eyeballs are about to pop out of her head in front

FAKE SCIENCE

Eliza Wallace '14 is from Shepherdstown, W. Va.

Oh honey! What isn't!? *Moby Dick* is problematic. *The Help* is problematic. *Jezebel* should be more problematic. Your polyester Navajo booty

discussion section. She wants you to find what is problematic. Your paper coffee cup.



Your non-fair-trade coffee. The fair trade system. Mother Teresa. Beyoncé.

Compare your problematics to mine. Are we all on the same page? Former disenfranchisement will never let you go. Walk a mile in my shoes. Give me my shoes back; what do you know about Girdlom anyways? You feeling oppressed today? You feeling a little vomit-y today? You feeling that wealth gap guilt? Non-disabled guilt? White guilt? Male guilt? Youth guilt? American guilt? Are you an ally? Are you a minority? How is that apple going down now that you know it was plucked by migrant farm workers? You better not choke on your words, there are innocents in jail. Was that politically correct? Tell your girlfriend that we are post-Feminism.

Stilletos=Barbie=empowerment=date rape? Does this follow the model? "Third World" is an outdated

term. We live in a melting pot. Mosaic. Human stew of flailing parts. She has permission to use the

N-word. He does not have permission to use the C-word. Squeeeeeze that boiling hot slime of the Automatic Problematic into my special tank, and we'll rocket to the moon. On the moon, everyone does their readings, and no one uses buzzwords. We are critical listeners, not underinformed reactionaries. On the moon, we are still angry, and life is still unfair, but when we finally decide to speak, slowly and clearly and thoughtfully through the tiny transistor radio back to earth, we will say, "Let's take a quick

dance break."

Grounded Wires Through Girl Rooms

Have you ever seen a person like me stomp around her room looking for something to wear? The number of kilowatts of horror that can be reflected off a mirror is enough to power a treadmill. Listen to the wasted energy of tugging shirt sleeves and pant zippers, full body twisting to see from behind, picking at holes, rubbing at stains, fluffing hair, kicking off shoes, hurling dresses to the floor. Extended roommate conferences on what looks Baldessari Right (yoga amphetamine chic) and what looks Baldessari Wrong (magenta, your hips in those jeans). Give me one girl who hates her arms and a couple ratty sweaters and I'll have enough sickened electricity to toast a thousand pieces of bread. But no need, she's skipping breakfast.

Collecting Pools of Crush Eyes

I fell in love with a girl last Thursday. Was completely smitten for at least fifteen minutes, and then it was gone and I felt okay again. The next day, I fell in love with the Co-op checkout boy for thirty-six seconds. I hardly ever sleep with the people I love, which is very sad, but very important. This isn't your I-love-you love, this isn't your mama's love, but boy, is it no less potent, no less intimate. It's an untapped gold mine, really, how rarely we use that energy from sources unknown and inexhaustible to actually keep someone close, how often it dies down, unspent, as you move out of each other's path. Think of what we could gain from all of those unrequited passing shivers! We have a whole pool of trembling feels to dip into, a reserve of heat that floods through us despite all our politeness. Some sort of giant sponge might do the trick. Think of possibilities of irrigation, the

innovations in light production, the greenhouses we could operate solely on the energy of our double-takes!

Harnessing Ambient Judgement

This comes from all of us, hanging low in the undersea rodeo, circling each other. I'm a coward, and these are the gross indulgences I ride. Is there a name for the stomach drop that comes with stumbling over a sentence, with saying something tactless or strange, something that makes everyone turn away from you and continue their conversation with anyone who isn't you? And then the scramble, the excuse, the apology, the desperate attempt to brush it off, take it back, reassert your normalness. Three months ago, in the vitriolic heat sparked undoubtedly from miscommunication, my mother looked me dead in the face and asked me if I had Asperger's. I wasn't hurt or angry — I was taken aback. Maybe I do, I thought, pausing to consider if it felt right, if it felt thirst-quenching, nourishing. It didn't. My psychiatrist thinks I have acute anxiety. My friends from home think I have a superiority complex. My ex-boyfriend thinks I'm trying too hard. My sister thinks it's narcissism. I think I have ADD. My roommate thinks I'm a paranoid hypochondriac. Here's what I suggest: whiplash your diagnoses together and tie them around your frame. Coil the symptoms into a helmet, pad your shins with the thinks. Now you're twice your size wearing armor built from everyone's book reports on "The Sad Story of Me." You are neon and sparking and leaking battery fluid. Hoist yourself on a donkey, or some sort of trusty steed, maybe your bike, and point yourself towards the sunrise over the hill. Maybe stop to take a picture with your phone and while you're at it, look up the definition of the word "quixotic." We all look like fish out of water. Charge on regardless.

Doesn't Mean I'm Lonely When I'm Alone

ECHOES

Alex Newhouse '17 is from Boulder, Colo.

I love to be alone. There is something so valuable about solitude, something so unique and singular, that I make a point to find it wherever I can. If I can find time to be alone, then that day is

a success. Eating lunch by myself is the very least of the ways I can find solitude. I walk into town by myself, spend time with my thoughts at one of the cafés in town, and sit for hours in the Grille with nothing but a book for company. These moments are irreplaceable.

As is probably clear, I am an introvert. I gain energy from solitude and feel exhausted by social interaction. Going out on a weekend is overwhelming and often emotionally taxing. I don't just like being alone, I need it for my mental health.

However, I am convinced that the benefits of solitude are not exclusive to introverts. Those who feel most at home surrounded by crowds of people could find time alone to be just as profound as I do. If we eliminate the common perception of solitude as unnatural and daunting, then the advantages become apparent for everyone.

The reason why people are so averse to the idea of being alone is that it is associated with feelings of loss and aimlessness. Solitude forces you to confront the situation of having no one around, no one to support you and talk to you, no one to respond to you. There's nothing to externalize your thoughts. Instead, being alone creates an entirely self-contained

sphere in which nothing exists except your own mind. And this is frightening. You involuntarily inspect your thoughts far more than usual, as every conversation is one-sided. Without the direction of others, you are forced to decide for yourself.

In other words, you have to trust yourself, and this is often difficult.

So, when we're alone we feel this perceived loss of the people we normally surround ourselves with. But the truth is that aloneness is not the same as loneliness. There is no loss involved with solitude. It is simply the acceptance of you as the only actor within a certain moment.

When I find solitude, I feel separate, as if civilization continues around me, but I simply stepped aside and let it go. Nothing affects me. My worries fall away and leave me clear-headed and aware. I notice more without the distractions of others. In the aimlessness of being alone, I feel free to wander. To be without a goal is liberating. It allows me to focus more on where I am, where I am going, who I am and what I think.

When I walk into town or around campus by myself, I am truly not focused on anything else but the world around me. I notice the feeling of the air entering my lungs, the sound of birds calling and the wind rushing past my ears.

To step away—that is the ultimate benefit that solitude allows. The isolation from others insulates you from the chaos of social life. It enables you to sit in quiet, even if loud noises surround you. This is the quiet that comes when your mind is the only

source of information, when no other stimuli are influencing your thoughts. This is the quiet that comes from acknowledging your existence as an individual.

We must detach our concept of loneliness from that of solitude. They are two very different concepts. The first is what we feel when we have lost someone, when that someone is gone for a significant amount of time. Solitude, on the other hand, has no loss attached to it. There is nothing to fear from being alone, because it is merely temporary. We fear solitude for those

moments we might miss with friends, but as a result we forget about the most fundamental relationship we have: us with ourselves, our thoughts, our minds.

I seek moments alone because they give me clarity. They let me feel singular, apart, like an individual. They make me accept myself, and I invariably feel revived and enlightened. I believe we should all seek solitude for as little as a few minutes every so often. Maybe then we can recognize ourselves, who we are, and what really matters in our lives.



That Damn Patriarchy

THE UNPOPULAR OPINION

Andrew DeFalco '15-5
is from Toronto, Canada

"Act like a man." I am sure that is a sentiment older male figures have expressed to any young man at some point in their lives. And I am sure the reasoning was well intentioned, even if ill-founded. I'm sure they meant 'be brave, don't cry and be athletic'; all those colloquial things we see personified in James Bond, Bruce Wayne or hell, even Aragorn. It is all beautifully idealistic and just a tad chauvinistic. We never have to see the failure of this idealism that we keep out of sight and mind because, well, it makes us uncomfortable.

I am not sure if I am a feminist, but I would sure like to be. I know that men possess a comparatively higher level of social, political and economic power in this country. I also hold firm that this is fundamentally wrong. Yet, I cannot speak personally to these issues, as I am not a woman. I rarely if ever fear physical violence, I have never had to worry about abuse or assault and I do not have to make a choice between my career or pregnancy. Yes, men have luxuries that are unfair and wrong. While we gain these social benefits, men too have every reason to be royally pissed off with the patriarchy.

Yes, men reap the benefits of the societal structure in place, but they suffer from it too. If we look at violent crime, for example, it comes as no real surprise that men dominate in the statistics. Men are more likely to commit and be victims of violent crime. The rate of homicide for men in 2011 was 7.4 per 100,000 citizens, women at 2.0. Do we just have a violent nature? Well that's just the way we are, I'm sure. Why doesn't this surprise us? It certainly does not surprise me.

Let's move on though. Did you know men make up 93.3% of America's prison population? Well of course they do, they're committing more crimes! It's just in their nature. Yes, along with the highest incomes and CEO positions, men can also claim almost complete monopoly over our prison system. Statistically this makes perfect sense as men are committing the majority of crime, or in the case of violent crime, the vast majority. Why this disparity? I am uncomfortable with the gut reaction that men are predisposed to criminal activity. Wouldn't that be a

strange thing to tell a young man that compared to his sister he is more likely to go to jail and more likely to become president.

Lastly, the number nobody wants to talk about, but remains the most horrifying yet the most unsurprising, is that men claim the vast majority of sexual abuse and assault crimes. Again, this does not surprise us. If we keep our eyes open we can see signs of this every weekend night. Or better yet, *ask women about it*.

So we know these things, and I am sure by now the situation looks pretty grim. As is often the case with atrocities and things that make us uncomfortable, we are often prone to looking for "good" and "bad" instead of constructive solutions. Here I sincerely believe the patriarchy has failed men too. Men are almost always the perpetrators in acts of sexual violence and I genuinely wonder why. Can you tell me? Is it just coded in to us? Too much testosterone? I would argue the rape culture persisted in our society is less a facet of that and jokes about rape (though those certainly don't help) and maybe something more ingrained. Maybe the reason is that men are continuously bombarded with images of validation and power coming as a result of sex. Maybe it's because James Bond is always in control and always gets the girl, and every first grader can tell you who James Bond is.

Men need to stop being complacent in their status as aggressors. Men need to be willing to hold each other accountable, to understand that the system has failed us too, has predisposed us to more successful suicide attempts, emotionally distant relationships and violent crime. Conveniently, you also fail in "being a man" when you begin to question what it means. In my limited experience, "being a man" is not what it was cracked up to be. I want no part of a stereotype that promotes abuse and violence, and neither do many of my male peers.

Men should be angry at the gender normativity they are slotted into, just as women should be. We should be furious. We should howl and scream and fight alongside feminists and anyone else who is willing to stand up to a patriarchal gender system. We may choose to brush off statistics and stereotypes by claiming *well, that's not me*; so I appeal to your sense of selfishness. Men, you have a reason to be pissed off and you should let the world know about it.

All We Need to Do is Talk

Two weeks ago I wrote an article for The Campus about how certain brands of leftist activism, especially those on this campus, have created a hierarchy of classes, which dictates admission into our collective discourse (see: "Jared Leto and the Though Police"). A week later an article was published in response (see: "We Too Are Angry"). It didn't contradict what I had written so much as confirm what I had thought, that this brand of activism doesn't want a conversation. It doesn't want to branch out; it simply wants to preach to the choir.

This tendency to divide manifested itself especially acutely this past weekend. Blake Shapskinsky, President of the Collective Mind SuperBlock, reached out to one of the authors of the response article to ask if they would be willing to participate in a debate over the topics raised by the two pieces. The offer was declined. More than the student's simple refusal to engage in conversation, what really shocked me was the student's assertion that such ideas should not be the topic of discussion. It's not that the student believed such subjects too trivial for elevated discourse. To the contrary, the student thought them too important to be at the heart of dialogue. This is both misguided and irresponsible.

To refuse to engage in conversation is antithetical to the academic tradition; it can never be an option. Man's closest encounters with greatness have not come by way of complacency. Rather, such accomplishments have been the product of a restlessness of thought and being. From Galileo's reimagining of the solar system to Marie Curie's isolation of radioactive isotopes, comfort was never enough. The Olympic motto, "Faster, Higher, Stronger", gets at this human urge to perpetually expand the boundaries of what we know to be possible. Indeed, peer-review sits at the heart of the academic system for a reason. To join in critical dialogue with another is to embody this appetite for growth.

In *The Common Good*, Noam Chomsky says, "The smart way to keep people passive and obedient is to strictly limit the spectrum of acceptable opinion but allow very lively debate within that spectrum." If you want to talk about a false consciousness, there

it is. We let ourselves believe that we're cutting edge, that our eyes and ears are open to change, but more often than not our conception of intellectual novelty is looking at the idea we entered the room with painted a different shade of grey.

If we were to follow the precedent set in "We Too Are Angry," we would never stop drawing the limits Chomsky describes. We would draw them between blacks and whites, men and women, cis and trans, homo and hetero, and so on and so forth. We would acknowledge that everyone comes here with a different base of experience and belief, but never challenge ourselves to think outside our own.

Consider this anecdote told by Chiamanda Ngozi Adichie: "I recently spoke at a university where a student told me it was such a shame that Nigerian men were physical abusers like the father character in my novel. I

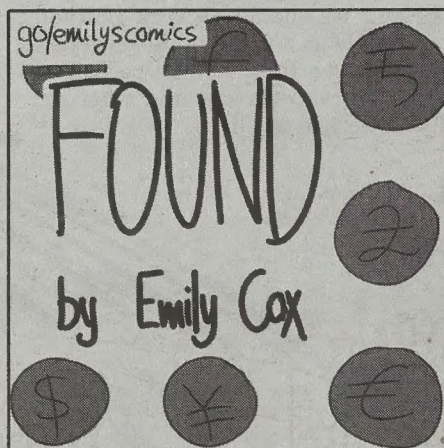
told him that I had recently read a novel called *American Psycho*, and that it was a shame that young Americans were serial murderers." We cannot reduce people to their lowest common denominator. Fifty years after the March on Washington it should go without saying that the tone of one's skin or the sex of one's lover should not be the determinants of the worth of one's opinion. Only in respecting everyone's intellectual capacity can we realize the dream that is the marketplace of ideas.

The success of democracy is that it allows the dissemination of ideas to affect tangible changes in people's lives. For millennia such transformation was only possible by way of violence, but the revolutionary notions of free speech and association have changed that. Appeals to the mind are the liberal's weapon of choice; it's the ballot not the bullet. From the regulation of industry to the deregulation of the female body, these appeals have had success when they reach across the aisle to convince others, not condemn them. I ask that we all treat our time here at Middlebury with the respect it deserves. It is a lucky thing to be surrounded by minds like these, eager not just to teach but also to learn.

CITIZEN KANYE

Nathan Weil '15 is from Geneva, Switzerland.

"To refuse to engage in conversation is antithetical to the academic tradition; it can never be an option."



The Entitled Precariat and the Code-geois

As I transition out of the Middlebury community, I will be joining a cohort of young people who face career uncertainty that I will refer to as “The Entitled Precariat.” Despite its allusion to Marxism, the

WARM GLOW

Hudson Cavanagh '14
is from New York, N.Y.

Entitled Precariat has nothing to do with ideology. Rather, it is a group of young professionals in precarious work situations that arise from a Catch-22 that would make Joseph Heller choke: in order to get a secure, fulfilling, well-paying job you need to be able to offer value in the form of professional skills, but to get those skills you have to be employed. The primary recourse is temporary work, low-skill entry-level positions, and perhaps most insidious of all, unpaid internships. That, or going back to school and accumulating crippling debt. Many simply cannot afford the opportunity costs of the unpaid internships or pursuing advanced degrees, institutionalizing class bias in the workforce. Hard work is not enough. I will discuss three challenges that may well define the first few years of experience in the labor force.

1. Transitioning from an empowering intellectual atmosphere to subordinate roles

Entitlement has become central to the narrative around “Gen-Y”ers in the workforce. Widely exploited as cheap labor who are unconditioned to demanding equitable treatment, what is referred to as “entitlement” can also be considered a survival mechanism. The widespread expectation that workers owe the employer “appreciation for the opportunity,” serves to bolster the

unequal terms of labor: the employer is seen as doing a favor by employing workers, rather than agreeing to mutually beneficial agreement.

To an educated student taught to question assumptions, deconstruct phenomena and challenge conventional discourse, roles that demand submissiveness and focus on monotonous tasks require a major adjustment. This transition, from the independent culture of higher education, to “respecting the hierarchy” requires an internal shift and can be very humbling.

2. The division between the “Entitled Precariat” and the “Code-geois”

Entitlement can be considered a euphemism for somebody overvaluing their value to an organization, suggesting that only people without relevant, valuable specializations can be considered “entitled.” The Entitled Precariat is characterized by frequently changing jobs, geographic migration and major lifestyle complications that arise from their unpredictable work life. To break free of incessant unpaid internships, they need to not only be productive, but exceptional. Their work-experience is an extended audition, rather than a development process.

In contrast, I coined the term “Code-geois” to refer to any worker who has widely sought-after skills, regardless of whether it’s being able to write C++ code, engineer new products or other transferable skills. These people are pursued by employers and will never have to consider unpaid internships. They do not have to be thankful for the opportunity to work, nor are they accused of being “entitled,”

because they have leverage to work at other firms. These are the people with stable incomes, employment security and, most importantly, options.

Acquiring such skills, the career progression paradox, is the central challenge for liberal arts students entering the workforce. Rather than pursuing what we believe to be our passion or aiming to work in our ideal field, a more effective strategy is to develop a “unique value proposition” by identifying an aptitude and developing it until it becomes a specialization. A key takeaway from Cal Newport’s, *So Good They Can’t Ignore You*, is that when it comes to a successful career, passion should not guide our search, but develop from within a specialized, engaging job. Passion matters, but to succeed in the workforce, a practical strategy to find an employment niche may be the most effective means of finding stable, lucrative, meaningful employment.

3. Living in accordance with your values

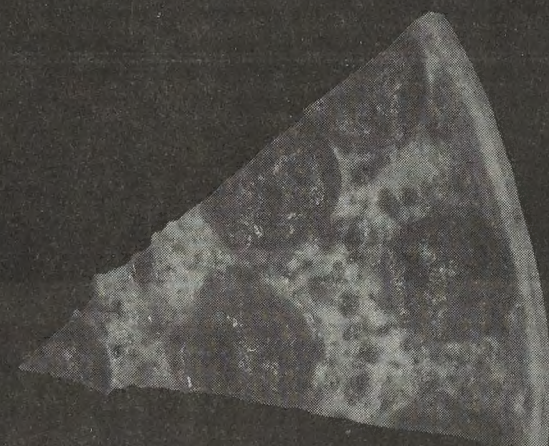
There’s a tension between career *realpolitik* and morality: how can you live as a cog in a system of structural injustice and not only survive, but make change? “When you don’t like capitalism, being an accountant doesn’t work in your favor,” Ashley Guzman ’13 offered sardonically in her presentation at the RAJ-organized Youth Labor and Unemployment Conference last week. She, along with oth-

er panelists at the event, sacrificed potential employment by pursuing only career options that aligned with their world views. While few workers are truly unrepentant, Frank Underwoodian pragmatists, particularly selective moral compasses — a virtue to be commended — necessarily exclude options that others are happy to seize. The best way to live in accordance with our values is

to combine a nuanced view of ethics in the workforce with a commitment to diligently refine our specialization, so that it is valuable enough, ideology aside, to be an asset to any employer. For example, if Exxon gives you a job that offers to help you develop your GIS skills, perhaps you cannot change the organization from within, but you can accumulate some income while acquiring a valuable skill for the rest of your career. It’s easier to move from the for-profit world to a specialized role in a social enterprise or non-profit than vice-versa.

While each of our moral codes is distinctive, developing skills and finding a niche is the best strategy to escape internship purgatory and thrust yourself into the ranks of the Code-geois, where you will have options that can allow you to live according to your values and find meaning in your work. To say there is only one way to achieve such goals would be reductive: the paths to our own versions of success are likely to be indirect, unpredictable and arduous. But we are more than capable of living up the challenge.

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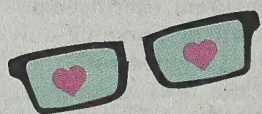
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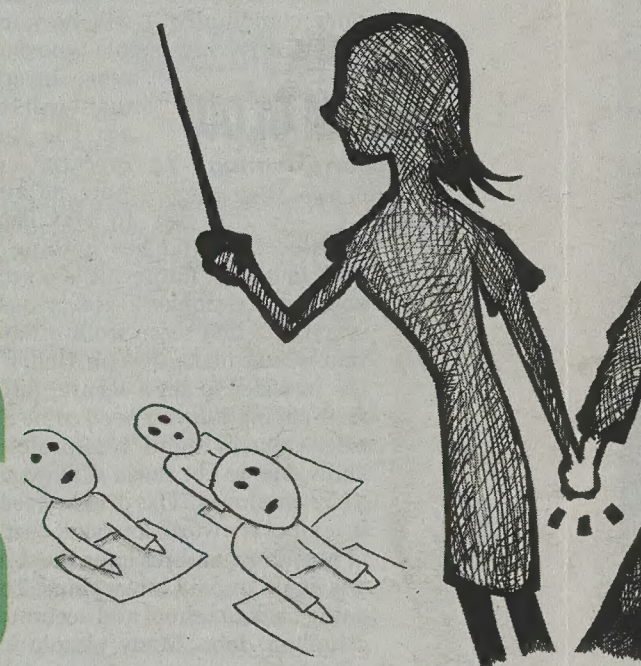
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As students, we live our lives in proximity to our peers, and thus have the opportunity to see them not only in an intellectual environment, but also in the social sphere. We see our friends on dining hall dates, at Atwater parties, on long walks to the organic farm, and "studying" in the library — our curiosity is satiated by observation and gossip. But faculty and staff remain an enigma: though we may get to know our faculty and staff we hardly ever see their personal lives. The Campus sat down with many of these couples individually this week to find out if they know each other as well as they know their subject matter.

POWER COUPLES



TIM WICKLAND
DIRECTOR OF SCIENCES SUPPORT SERVICES
ARLINDA WICKLAND
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS & HEALTH

MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS: How did you meet?

TW: We went to high school together in Chicago, but moved in different circles. Arlinda was a socialite and I was a nerd. (Our high school actually had more students than Middlebury College does.)

MC: What was your first date?

TW: Arlinda sought me out when she was part of a group planning our 10th year high school reunion. We went out to a little creperie in Hyde Park, near the University of Chicago, and after that, we pretty much never looked back.

MC: How long have you been married?

ARLINDA WICKLAND: A lot of good years — who's counting!

MC: What is one of your spouses quirks?

AW: Tim likes sugar: brown sugar on Greek yogurt; chocolate Quick (powder) on vanilla ice cream; a packet of raw sugar in a pinch.

AW: After so many years, quirks become such a part of the normal fabric of things that you hardly notice them anymore. I guess one thing would be that she can't tolerate any red decor in the house after the end of February.

MC: What is your favorite quality of your spouse?

AW: Tim is incredibly intelligent and well-read, but at the same time is handy around the house; for example, he services all our cars, built personalized bookcases for each of our sons, and re-wired the electrical system in our house by reading a manual.

TW: Arlinda has just about the perfect blend of caring and feistiness. That, and she is an absolutely fabulous culinary artist.

MC: What is their most annoying habit?

TW: Cutting the time too close for my comfort when we have a performance to go to. That being said, we've never missed an opening curtain that I can recall (though I don't always get a chance to read the program before the lights go down).

AW: He often is doing something else (crosswords, sudoku, reading magazines) when I am talking to him! Then when I ask him what I just said, he tries to fake his way through, but it's clear he wasn't listening.

MC: What is your spouse's favorite book?

AW: The Taylor Branch Series on Civil Rights is probably his all time favorite, but he just read Don Mitchell's new book and had great things to say about it. I just re-read a trilogy that was incredible, but I would never admit what it is.

TW: I think her favorite author has been Rosamunde Pilcher, particularly The Shell Seekers. I think probably the most memorable and compelling at this point in my life would be Taylor Branch's great trilogy on Dr. King and the civil rights movement.

Interviewed by Emilie Munson



STEVE ABBOTT
PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS
KATY SMITH ABBOTT
DEAN OF STUDENTS/PROFESSOR OF THE HISTORY OF ART & ARCHITECTURE

MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS: How did you meet?

STEVE ABBOTT: We met at New Faculty Orientation at St. Olaf College. I think we were the only two single people in the room, so it felt like a trick.

KATY ABBOTT: Steve was wearing rag wool socks and Tevas, so that was the sign that he hadn't needed to care what he looked like in a while.

MC: What was your first date?

SA: Some early weekend that fall, we ended up downtown. They had a town celebration to honor the defeat of Jesse James at a bank in town. They have a midway carnival.

KA: With fried food on a stick.

SA: Very Midwestern carnival, and we were there with a bunch of faculty.

KA: We rode the tilt-a-whirl together, and Steve almost threw up. [laughs]

SA: And we got to the end of the evening, and Katie's house was on one side of town, and everybody else lived somewhere else, and she was going to walk home. So I offered to give her a ride on my bike.

KA: Your Harley.

SA: My bicycle. And she accepted. And she got on the back of my mountain bike.

KA: I sat down on the seat, and he stood up on the pedals.

SA: I was stuck, because I didn't take any art history in college, so I didn't have any tools. But that summer I was working in D.C., and [in the National Gallery] there was a specific exhibit about one painting. And I said I saw this exhibit this summer with this painting. And Katie said, "I saw that exhibit too, I love that painting."

MC: How long have you been married?

KA: Eighteen?

SA: Nineteen?

KA: Nineteen, yeah.

MC: What is one of your spouse's quirks?

KA: There are so many! So much material to work with... Hmm... Steve has never worn a watch and never kept a calendar.

SA: She has probably fifteen different mechanisms for making coffee. And they're all perfect for about four days. And then it's not quite right. The French press, the drip thing, the foamer that doesn't foam, it just spins it really fast. We haven't done the thousand dollar espresso machine.

KA: That's the destiny.

MC: One thing you love about your spouse.

SA: Just one, sweetie, you can only do one.

KA: Steve is an incredible parent. He's always one hundred percent all in, so it's always been fifty-fifty.

SA: If somebody comes up with an idea, you need Katie around to make it happen. She's an instigator. The wall between concept and implementation is very thin. Like, "we should get a dog" — she was afraid of dogs when we first met. I went away for a week, and I came back, and we had a dog. We didn't even have plans to get a dog.

MC: What is it like working at the same college?

SA: Well. When we were Commons Heads, for six years — that was the first time we collaborated. Saying yes to the job was partly inspired by the desire to do something together.

KA: Spending six years together thinking about connecting intellectual life outside the classroom, that was such a rich time for both of us. But in general, I can't think of any downsides we've ever felt.

SA: It's always funny when students figure it out.

KA: One of the things that's great about it, is we definitely have a lot of interest in the institution as an institution, and what we're doing for students here.

Interviewed by Isabelle Stillman.



SUNHEE CHOI
JOHN G. MCCULLOUGH PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY
JIM LARRABEE
WILLIAM R. KENAN JR. PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY

MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS: How did you meet?

SUNHEE CHOI: In the chemistry research lab at Princeton Grad School.

MC: What was your first date?

JIM LARRABEE: Sunhee cooked a Korean dinner for me and we watched the Academy Awards ceremony on TV (it was early 1978).

MC: How long have you been married?

SC: 33 years.

MC: What is one of your spouses quirks?

JL: She is very demanding and does not tolerate any effort other than your best effort.

SC: Being ready for everything 1000 hours ahead.

MC: What is your favorite quality of your spouse?

JL: She is very demanding and does not tolerate any effort other than your best effort.

SC: Devotion.

MC: What is their most annoying habit?

JL: She is very demanding and does not tolerate any effort other than your best effort.

SC: Seeing and questioning unnecessary details to my amazing ideas.

MC: How do you take your coffee?

SC: [I take mine] Black and strong. [He takes his] Black and stronger.

JL: [We] Both take it black, no sugar.

Interviewed by Emilie Munson.



STEPHEN DONADIO
FULTON PROFESSOR OF HUMANITIES
EMMIE DONADIO
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF CURATOR OF THE MUSEUM OF ART

MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS: How did you meet?

STEPHEN DONADIO: Emmie and I met at a party in New York (Upper West Side)

MC: What was your first date?

EMMIE DONADIO: After the party we went to the West End Cafe, near Columbia University, and talked about everything.

MC: How long have you been married?

ED: Since before our children were born.

SD: We have been married since before the fall of the Berlin Wall.

MC: What is one of your spouse's quirks?

SD: Unusual enthusiasm for foreign travel (i.e., to places beyond Middlebury town limits).

ED: Just one?

MC: What is your favorite quality of your spouse?

ED: Sense of humor!

SD: Capacity for lasting friendship with others, near and far.

MC: What is their most annoying habit?

ED: Resistance to time away from work.

SD: See above.

MC: What is your favorite movie?

ED: [I] couldn't say [mine]. [His is] Citizen Kane, without a doubt.

SD: My favorite movie: Les Enfants du Paradis (Children of Paradise), an old French film. Her favorite: Dirty Harry (starring Clint Eastwood).

Interviewed by Emilie Munson.



DEB EVANS
VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN STUDIES
WILL NASH
PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN STUDIES AND ENGLISH & AMERICAN

MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS: How did you meet?

WILL NASH: We met in an Emerson seminar in graduate school.

DEB EVANS: But we really met in the mailroom of our grad school program; I was working in the office and we started up a conversation. He had recently shaved a full Grizzly Adams-esque beard, so I had no idea it was the same guy from class I was talking to. It kept rolling after that.

MC: What was your first date?

DE: For our first date, he came to my house for dinner. One of the most memorable parts of the evening was that after we brought dinner out to the porch, I sat down and the wicker chair collapsed — completely! — underneath me. I cracked up; so did he. I think that was when we knew we had a future.

MC: How long have we been married?



illustration by Nolan Ellsworth

WN: It will be 21 years in August.

MC: What is your favorite quality of your spouse?

DE: Will is a very genuine person. When he cares about something – an issue, a person – it is for keeps. And it may be a cliché, but he is a tremendous father, and I love to see him with our three kids.

WN: She is very compassionate and very thoughtful. And she is smart and funny.

MC: What is their favorite color?

DE: His: Red, maybe blue. Mine: green, maybe turquoise.

WN: Her favorite color is blue. That's my favorite color.

Interviewed by Emilie Munson.



IRA SCHIFFER

ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN RABBI

LINDA SCHIFFER

COMMONS COORDINATOR

MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS: How did you meet?

IRA SCHIFFER: Our common friends Hans and Rozanne lived in Wilmington, Delaware, and we met at their housewarming party. As we sat talking at the party, I asked her how she knew them. I found out that she had worked on a political campaign with them, and we hit it off ever since. Our friends still claim that they are responsible for introducing us.

LINDA SCHIFFER: Oh that's a fun story! We met at a party in Wilmington, Delaware, that friends of ours were throwing as a sort of housewarming occasion. I asked him how he knew them. "I married them," he said. I was taken aback for a moment, and then I realized he was a Rabbi, but I didn't want to ask outright. We spoke for a bit, and then I broke my cardinal rule of meeting men, letting him have a cup of coffee and driving me home the first time we met each other. I didn't hear from him for over a month after that, but then he called, a month later, and we started dating!

MC: What was your first date?

IS: It was Christmas Eve, and we went to the restaurant open on Christmas Eve: a Chinese place, with our friends who introduced us, Hans and Roxanne. After that, we went to Midnight mass together at the Episcopal Cathedral of Wilmington. We both found it fascinating.

MC: How long have you been married?

LS: We got married in November 1981. He proposed 3 months after we started dating, but we decided to keep the whole thing quiet until he finished his degree. We announced our marriage at his Ordinance.

MC: What's one of your spouse's quirks?

IS: She always makes sure I wipe up all the water around the sink in the bathroom, keep it clean and dry. She's very particular about things like that.

LS: He'll do things like feed the cat, which is lovely, but then he'll leave the empty can of food on the counter. He'll start something, finish it, but then leave things behind.

MC: What you love about him/her?

IS: Her energy. She just embraces life. She has a motorcycle, she built a sports car when our daughter was a baby, almost 25 years ago, and she still uses it. She ski races on Fridays (we spend a lot of time outdoors), and she ice fishes, one of the activities I don't join her for.

LS: We lived in Israel for 5 years. We loved everything about our life there. But I had an Uncle in Philadelphia who I was very close with. He was ailing, and I wanted to be with him. I decided to shift back for a little while, to be closer to him, and told Ira I would travel back and forth. Even though he really loved Israel and we were very happy, he decided to move back to the US with me. He said, "No, we're family and that's not the way to do it. If one of us goes, we all go." That's what I love about him. He understands the importance of family.

MC: What annoys you about him/her?

IS: I don't hate anything about her. We've made life a fun adventure together.

LS: Sometimes he nags. It drives me crazy. I'm like, I get it Ira. But after 33 years of being together, you get used to it.
Interviewed by Jiya Pandya.



ANTONIA LOSANO

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURES

DANIEL BRAYTON

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE

MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS: How did you meet?

DANIEL BRAYTON: We met in my first class at graduate school, in her second year.

ANTONIA LOSANO: Dan and I met in a grad school class – Victorian Non-Fiction Literature – in August 1992 at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill where we were getting our M.A.s. We moved from Chapel Hill two years later to Ithaca, NY to get our Ph.D.s at Cornell University.

MC: When was and where did you go on your first date?

DB: We went to a Halloween party together. She was Nefertiti and I was a mendicant friar.

AL: We were friends for a while before we started dating, so I can't really remember a "first" date.

MC: How long have you been married?

DB: We've been married since May of 2001.

AL: We got married in 2001, at Mead Chapel on campus.

MC: What is one of your spouse's quirks?

DB: Antonia is a great disco dancer, but she likes to lead.

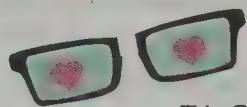
AL: Dan has no quirks. He's perfect!

MC: What do you love about him/her?

DB: I love absolutely everything about her, including all her foibles, neuroses, quirks, and bad habits.

AL: See above.

Interviewed by Julia John



FRANK SWENTON

CHAIR OF THE MATH DEPARTMENT

FLORENCE FEIREISEN

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF UTMANN

MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS: How did you meet?

FRANK SWENTON: We met when Florence moved into the apartment beneath mine when she started at Middlebury—I think our first actual meeting was when she came up to ask about paying something since she was using my wireless (I told her not to worry about it).

FLORENCE FEIREISEN: We met "through the internet," but not online. When I moved from Western Mass to Vermont, I moved into the apartment underneath Frank's and used his wireless connection for a few days until I decided to go upstairs, introduce myself and offer to chip in for the wireless connection.

MC: What was your first date?

FS: It's hard to identify a first date as such. She invited me to watch the whole series Six Feet Under through Netflix (actual DVD's, not online)...I think that initially she was looking for a group, but it ended up being just the two of us watching the series from start to finish over the course of some number of months.

FF: Never really had a first date. We were friends and all of a sudden realized that we had been living in both apartments together for a while. I'd say it's pretty typical for Germans to be friends and then have that develop into something more.

MC: How long have you been married?

FS: It'll be five years in August.

FF: 4.5 years.

MC: What is one of your spouse's quirks?

FS: Well, being German, the strangest thing about her is that she really doesn't have a German accent (most people ask her if she's Canadian or something, just because she tends to over-enunciate relative to an American).

FF: Frank has a schizophrenic palate: he loves kids' things like orange Kraft's mac and cheese and fruit snacks, but he also appreciates elaborate fancy dinners with grown up ingredients. When we eat out, he often takes risks by trying something completely new. But then he also eats pop tarts.

MC: What is one thing you love about your spouse?

FS: That she's smart and nice are a little trite, so I'll say I'm impressed with her hockey skills.

FF: Obviously many things, but you asked about one thing? Ok. I love that this semester Frank is taking an unpaid leave from teaching to be [our son] Max's primary care giver (Max is 5 months old). He still has chair duties and some advising to do, so he just scoops up Max and takes him to Warner Hall. Max has been called the co-chair of math! He has his own travel bed in Frank's office. Anyways, I love this about Frank: he did not have to do this, Max could have easily gone to daycare once my maternity leave was over, but it was really important to him to be with both of his boys when they were little.

MC: What is one thing you don't particularly like about your spouse?

FS: Related to the above, she sort of plays down when she plays hockey, rather than pushing herself and playing with groups that are nearer her potential skill level...she's just not that competitive in hockey, which is sort of a shame!

FF: Not a big fan of Frank competing in programming contests when we are on vacation.

Interview by Emma MacDonald



JUANA GAMERO DE COCA

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SPANISH

RICARDO CHAVEZ-CASTENADA

VISITING LECTURER IN SPANISH RICARDO CHAVEZ-CASTENADA

MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS: How did you meet?

JUANA GAMERO DE COCA: In New Mexico State University.

MC: What was your first date?

RICARDO CHAVEZ-CASTENADA: We never really had a first date.

JG: Many years after we first met, in Mexico City.

MC: What is one of your spouses quirks?

JG: He lives out of this world. Always inside the worlds in his novels.

RC: Her extreme empathy with everything around her.

MC: What is your favorite quality of your spouse?

RC: The world that comes out of her eyes, her mouth, her heart. It is really the world in which I live.

JG: He is a very good person.

MC: What is their most annoying habit?

JG: He does not know how to stop working.

RC: She takes too, too long cleaning her teeth before going to bed.

MC: What is your spouse's favorite food?

JG: He loves rice and beans. I love shrimps and all kinds of seafood.

RC: Her favorite food is seafood. For me [it] is earth food.

Interviewed by Emilie Munson.



ANDREW SMITH

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF THEATER

LISA VELTEN-SMITH

VISITING LECTURER IN THEATER

MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS: How did you meet?

ANDREW SMITH: We first met as we entered an MFA Acting Program at the University of California, San Diego in 2002. It was my first night in San Diego, having arrived with my Uhaul that day with my girlfriend at the time. Lisa knocked on my door because she was meeting my roommate to go see a show at the La Jolla Playhouse. We all met and introduced ourselves as members of the same acting class. I remember thinking: "Cool! She seems great." But my girlfriend at the time, once Lisa left the room, immediately turned to me and said: "Wow. Good luck with that one."

MC: What was your first date?

LISA VELTEN-SMITH: Thinking. Thinking. Yep, no idea.

AS: As members of the same acting class of nine in a very intensive program, neither Lisa nor I came to graduate school to date our classmates. We came there for the work and to learn. So, we denied for a bit the mutual attraction that was developing, even though the directors in the program saw the chemistry, and immediately began casting us together in classwork and productions. We have played opposite each other on stage many, many times. Eventually it became more of a distraction to deny what was so evident to all around us, so we started dating. We didn't have the normal "let's go on a date" kind of start.

MC: How long have you been married?

AS: We got married on July 3rd 2006.

MC: What is one of your spouses quirks?

LV: He is really obsessed with making sure the keys are put back on the key holder.

AS: When Lisa gets really excited about something, especially an intellectual idea, her diction becomes pronounced.

MC: What is your favorite quality of your spouse?

AS: She is relentless in pursuit of truth. It is inspiring.

LV: His humility and generosity. Sorry that's two but he has a lot of favorable qualities. S'why I married the guy.

MC: What is their most annoying habit?

AS: I get annoyed at myself when I get annoyed at her. She is free to have her habits without me judging her.

LV: Leaving the wet bath towel on the bed. Though, it's been awhile since I've seen it happen so perhaps we are experiencing a breakthrough.

MC: What is your spouse's favorite local restaurant?

AS: My favorite local restaurant: the grill on my front porch. If not that, then maybe Fire and Ice? She likes Fire and Ice too. Any place that has a boat for a salad bar deserves our business.

LV: I don't necessarily favor one restaurant over another, but I will say the salmon from Costello's or the chicken from Misty Knoll's on the grill is outstanding. He might say Fire and Ice because we always seem to have a good time there, but when he sees my answer, he'll go "oh, yeah, no —what Lisa said."

Interviewed by Emilie Munson.

Who's your favorite Middlebury power couple?

Let us know online by commenting on middleburycampus.com or on our Facebook.



The Secret Life of Narps

By Izzy Fleming and Maddie Webb

For those of you who were worried (probably just our #1 most devoted fan, Izzy's grandpa): we're officially back baby.

Maddie has resurrected from her gastro gravestone and joined Izzy once again for their half-marathon training. After a beautiful rendition of Baby Come Back to Me, a.k.a. a Vanessa Hudgens Baby V original, performed by Izzy, Maddie was ceremoniously reunited with her running shoes and made a triumphant return. In absurdly irresponsible fashion, she recommenced her training with a six mile run. Six miles, people! Izzy was unsupportive, but realized it was time to remove the metaphorical training wheels (yolo). In an act of some pragmatism, Maddie did indeed organize emergency contacts in case she did not make it. She warned Izzy before she left, "If my bloop hasn't moved on your Find My Friends application for more than five minutes, call 911." All in all, the run (walk?) went great as she only had a few close calls with asthma attacks.

Within the next 12 hours, the town of Middlebury experienced an absolute tundra, vaguely reminiscent of the brilliantly made dramatic film, "The Day After Tomorrow," starring world-renowned DILF (if unfamiliar, hit up urban dictionary) Dennis Quaid and everybody's favorite gay cowboy, Jake Gyllenhaal. Although this dramatic turn in weather events may have kept some trainees at bay, we managed to get our hearts racing by bringing back a favorite childhood activity: sledding (also known to us as a hill workout). Departing Battell at the strike of midnight, Maddie and Izzy trekked through the gale-force winds to campus's prime sledding locale: Mead Chapel hill. You might be doubting how strenuous the physical activity actually was, but considering how many times we got blown over by the wind we were basically doing multiple sets of burpies.

After a close-call with frost bite, we decided to take our next workout indoors with an hour-long yoga session. It should come as no surprise to you that we had no idea what we were doing, so we enlisted Izzy's FYC (first-year counselor) who doubles as a yoga instructor (shoutout to Staci Hill) for advice. She recommended vinyasa or chaturanga. Completely bewildered, we turned to our beloved friend, Youtube for help. We hit a brief dilemma when we searched chimichanga instead of chaturanga, but regardless, we were ready to yoga (is that a verb?). Thirty seconds into the video after the apparently "essential" deep breathing, we hit an even bigger obstacle. Apparently, being flexible is a crucial component to successfully downward dogging? Incapable of touching our toes, we struggled to maintain proper poses in Maddie's 184 square foot dorm room. We ultimately failed at the end of the video when we were instructed to lay on our backs with our palms open for a few deep breaths. Practically asking us to fall asleep, that is exactly what we did. Looks like Maddie isn't the only self-diagnosed narcoleptic!

In the words of James Franco a.k.a. Alien from Spring Breakers "It's [almost] spraaang break!" If you are heading to a tropical location take advantage of the outdoors and take some romantic long walks on the beach. And if you are staying in the cold, well then we are just so sorry. Enjoy the tundra!

Outdoors Mag: World at Fingertips

By Afi Yellow-Duke

On Feb. 25, a Facebook page was created for *The Middlebury Fireside*, which calls itself as "Middlebury's new, premier publication for the outdoor enthusiast, environmentalist, nature photographer, or artist." The page is currently on the sparse side, but the six students involved have given a lot of thought to what a publication like this could look like and do for the campus and greater community. The current editorial board contains students across all four years, outdoor interests and publishing skills.

"I felt that this was a niche that wasn't filled yet here: focusing on the local scene," said Ben Harris '16, a board member for *The Fireside* and the brainchild. "We envision this being a combination of people writing or photographing their local adventures or experiences in the outdoors, and we would also be willing to publish anything that's farther afield."

"I think we were really struck by the fact that there is currently no place on campus where students and community members can share their experiences with the outdoors," said Evan Gallagher '15, a fellow *Fireside* board member. "While we do have publications that focus on other aspects of the Middlebury experience such as *Sweat-er-vest*, *Blackbird*, *Middlebury Geographic* or *Translingual Magazine*, the exploration and adventure subculture is relatively underrepresented and we thought it was very strange that such an important community lacked a literary space that it could really call its own. Plus, a lot of other schools that are comparable to Middlebury have established successful magazines that address a similar goal, so we know that it's a workable idea."

The Middlebury Fireside is in the process of becoming an official student organization, which explains the dearth of advertising on campus.

"Once we get approval from the Finance Committee, we'll start putting up posters across campus," Harris said.

"We're currently working with the SGA to figure out whether or not a publication like *The Fireside* has a realistic chance of becoming successful on a long-term basis," Gallagher explained. "The main challenges, at this point, are figuring out exactly what differentiates us from other similar publi-



EVAN GALLAGHER

Five of Seven students hoping to launch *Fireside*, a magazine for the outdoors.

cations and determining what our relationship will be other like-minded student organizations, particularly the Mountain Club," he added.

In the meantime, the group has reached out to like-minded organizations and students on campus, such as the Middlebury Mountain Club and the students in the Adventure Writing course from this past J-Term.

Emma Erwin '15, an outdoor enthusiast, was very excited by the prospect of an outdoor magazine at the College. "I actually already submitted some contributions for the first issue," Erwin said in an email. "I would love to help work on the magazine at some point in the future."

"Every person that I have talked to has been sold on the idea from the moment I mentioned it," Gallagher said. "Based on what I've seen, a lot of Midd Kids are sitting on several years' worth of outdoor-themed work — photos, essays, journals — that they haven't shared simply because there hasn't been a space in which to do so. For people like this, the prospect of a magazine where outdoor-themed writing and art is actually the focus seems really exciting ... and, for many, long overdue."

At the same time, Harris stressed that the magazine isn't just for the seasoned outdoor Middlebury student.

"We don't want to intimidate people who are new to the outdoors," he said. "Mid-

dlebury is the place to get involved with the outdoors. There are so many offerings here for people of all skill levels."

In the long term, the group hopes to get submissions from across the campus community.

"Peter Lourie, who teaches the Adventure Writing class in J-Term, is interested and our faculty advisor, [Atwater Commons] Dean [Scott] Barnicle, has some outdoor stories that would be great to include," Harris said.

Once they've established a high quality print publication, *The Middlebury Fireside* board also hopes to expand its presence to other mediums.

If the conversations between the *Fireside* board and the SGA's Finance Committee were to go awry, both Gallagher and Harris expressed a commitment in making the *Fireside* happen in another format. Considering the work they've put in so far and the strong support they have received across campus, this conclusion seems unlikely.

"Our campus is full of awesome people who have all been on incredible adventures," Erwin said. "I think an outdoor magazine provides a really great forum to share some stellar stories. It'll be really cool to see how it turns out and draws on the outdoor enthusiasm that is so prevalent at Middlebury."

For more information on the magazine, go to go/fireside.

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- 2 Valuable research tool with over a million companies listed, links you to "people also viewed" (similar organizations and companies).
- 3 Enough activity on LinkedIn will lead it to be the first thing to pop up when an employer googles you (not your facebook page!).
- 4 Helpful search function which narrows down search based on location, interests, group membership, experience, employers, degrees of connection, etc.

REMEMBER!

- Takes a lot of initial time investment.
- Should be updated frequently.
- People don't check it daily (like email).
- Make connections count (quality over quantity).
- Based on degrees of separation - connect to one, and connect to a ton.

WHERE DOES MIDDNET FIT IN?

- 1) First look on MiddNet to find alumni who want to be contacted.

- 2) After you meet a prospective employer, connect with them on LinkedIn. Try to add a personal or relevant note as well.

- 3) Cross-examine employers on LinkedIn, research them to make your MiddNet outreach email more personal.

Atwater First Chef Cooks with Sweetness

By Ali Lewis

Tammy Iffland, first cook in Atwater Dining Hall, is perhaps one of the happiest people I've ever met.

"My job is fun," she told me. "We love making you guys happy."

Iffland's day starts around 7 a.m., but Atwater opens even earlier, with dry goods arriving on trucks from Burlington Food Service starting around 5 a.m. All the food comes in through the loading dock behind Atwater, where the trucks back in through giant garage doors. The dock is heated "so we're not freezing to death while we're taking all the freight off the trucks," Iffland said.

"There's a lot that goes on, you know, that you guys don't see," she said. "A day in my life ... it's getting here, make sure we have enough food, make sure the food that I'm counting on was ordered and is coming on the truck ..."

Sometimes the trucks can be unpredictable, and Iffland has to wait until 8 or 9 a.m. for some of the produce she needs to cook that day.

On a typical day in Atwater, there are anywhere from five to seven staff members who Iffland "look[s] after," and who look to her for answers. They all stock the store rooms shelves and three walk-in refrigerators in the basement of Atwater as food comes in off the trucks. Then, Iffland tells the chefs to "gather what we need for the day," and all the produce and ingredients are brought upstairs in their elevator.

Chopping vegetables, fabricating meat, assembling sandwiches and like tasks happens in the back prep-kitchen upstairs. The prep-kitchen can get pretty busy with everyone working around one another. All the food is then cooked in the open kitchens behind the two lunch-lines. Chefs have to be careful to stay professional in the open setting of these kitchens.

"We're not ghosts back here," Iffland said. "You can hear what we're saying, just as well as we can hear what you're saying!" But she has never had problems with the professionalism of her staff.

In the back prep kitchen especially, "it's very friendly," Iffland said. She thinks her team works very well together, which is important.

"It's like any relationship, doesn't matter if it's personal or professional," she said, "you've got to really work at it" to collaborate. The chefs in Atwater spend eight to ten hours a day working next to one another.

"Sometimes you see these guys more than you see your own family. I enjoy working



First Cook Tammy Iffland can certainly take the heat in the kitchen, and with a smile.

with each and every one of these guys," said Iffland, and it is clear from seeing her camaraderie with the chefs that they enjoy working with her too.

Iffland first realized that she wanted to cook at age 14 when she was working for a catering company, washing dishes and watching the grand production around her.

"I loved the tedious stuff, you know like the little pastries and little tea sandwiches, and the beautiful spreads that they put out. I fell in love with it ... So I've spent the rest of my career learning all that stuff."

Iffland got a degree as a pastry chef and later went to culinary school in New Hampshire, where she met her husband Rick Iffland, who is a cook in Ross Dining Hall. For four years, before coming to Atwater, Iffland served as the private house cook for President Liebowitz's family, where her kitchen had to separate utensils and dishware for meat and dairy to follow the kosher dietary

laws. The Liebowitz family meals were not especially fancy, according to Iffland; "they eat like you and me." The family loved salmon cakes, empanadas, whole-wheat dough pizza and salads.

Iffland also helped to run Otter Creek Bakery in town for eight years, and has run bakeries in multi-million dollar operations in Phoenix, AZ, which gave her plenty of experience for the managerial side of being a first cook. Alongside Darren Zeno, the other first cook in Atwater, she has to know accounting, plan menus, order food, implement recipes and calculate how much food to cook.

Atwater serves between 800 and 900 students a day, which has posed a challenge for finances since the economic downfall. Iffland works hard to avoid over-production and plans menus to "stretch that dollar," "make things sustainable" and "use things that are grown here, things that are made here," as opposed to importing produce. In the spring and summer especially, Atwater uses large amounts of produce from the organic garden.

The 800 to 900 students also pose challenges for seating; there are only 265 seats in Atwater. "We try to turn those seats as quickly as we can," Iffland said, hence the two lunch lines to speed up the process.

"I actually feel bad when we run out of seating," Iffland said. On Mondays and Wednesdays, Atwater's busiest days, the dining hall often fills at the 11 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. rushes, and sometimes again when the next class gets out at 1:30. Students sometimes go back to sit at the chefs' break table behind the vegetarian line, which is ok according to Iffland.

"We want you to enjoy the food, and we're proud of what we do."

In the near future, Iffland says, dining halls are planning to coordinate their menus to make food costs more efficient. This means that "you're going to see probably the same menus in every dining hall," and Iffland will no longer decide the dishes cooked in Atwater.

"I think that's fine," she said. "We just want to make sure we can make food for everyone, and that everyone's satisfied with their experience here."

The food matters a great deal, of course, but Iffland believes the experience of being a student at Middlebury "is just as important."



By Sex Panther

Friends with benefits. All of those words individually sound so nice. Friendship, that's awesome. And benefits, who doesn't want those? Yet somehow, often, these situations don't end up working out as perfectly as people initially plan. At a place like Middlebury, with the "work hard, play hard, then work harder" environment we have, many people don't have time for dating. But that certainly doesn't mean that people don't want to play, if you catch my drift. Yet, as many people realize by their second semester at Midd, random Saturday night hookups only get you so far. While the first one or two might feel really exhilarating, and afterwards you can tell people how "college" your Saturday night was, after a while it begins to lose its appeal. And also, nine times out of ten, the hookup isn't really ever that great. It's messy and drunk and awkward and the next morning you wake up as early as possible to avoid any and all conversation.

So many people find that a solution is friends with benefits. None of the pressure of dating, but all of the fun of hooking up with someone you know. But, trysts that are "No relationships, no emotions, just sex" as Mila Kunis so eloquently states in "Friends with Benefits," are very hard to come by. In the end, there is always some sort of miscommunication.

I remember my first time trying out friends with benefits. Late into freshman year, I hooked up with this guy I knew, same friend group and what not. I knew he was a player, but he was hot, so I figured as long as I kept my expectations exceedingly low, there would be no issues. And then we hooked up again. And then we started hooking up on weekdays. Sober. In the afternoon. And, while all my girl friends insisted that this was totally the beginning of a relationship, I knew deep down that it wasn't. We were friends, and we would talk before and after sex. But the purpose of the hang out was strictly sex. The only problem was that we were not on the same page at all. I figured we were hooking up exclusively; he didn't. And it all blew up one night when we were at Atwater and I walked in on him hooking up with some random girl. After a night of drunken fighting, fight sex, and subsequent sober conversation we both realized how much we assumed about the other person's impressions on the hookup. It's amazing—you'd think that the fact that being friends and having sex without the pressures of dating would mean that you could be really open with what you want. But for some reason, in friends with benefits, people seem even more afraid to be honest. No one wants to be the one who's more into the relationship, and yet no one wants to be a "douche" or a "bitch," especially if you risk screwing up the friendship.

So what are Middkids to do? Dating can be great, but also time consuming and stressful, and for people looking for something less serious but still sexually gratifying, friends with benefits is there...a much better option than random DFMO's (Dance Floor Make Outs) turned random one night stands. And they are. As long as they are done properly. After the first round failure with "sex friends", I made a second attempt, and this one ended much less dramatically. We had been good friends for a while, and after hooking up a few times, just talked about how we wanted it to be very casual, and only when it was convenient for both of us. We also were much more open about what we wanted from sex, how we wanted to experiment and new things we wanted to try, which made it a lot more fun! And I think, the most important aspect to making "no strings attached" situations work is this: Not every day. Once a weekend, or every other weekend, definitely. But when you start getting into everyday hookups, you enter a dangerous gray territory. Only venture there if you really don't care about getting hurt, or if you are a big risk taker. As I see it, friends with benefits should be a no-stress, no-nonsense hookup with someone you can trust. Don't make it out to be more or less than it is.

In the Snow, talk on "Saving Life on Earth"

By Julia John

A blizzard raged outside the Robert A. Jones '59 House last Wednesday evening, but inside, the conference room was filled to its capacity of 100.

Students, faculty and community members had braved the biting wind, driving snow and deeply blanketed roads and sidewalks to attend this year's Scott A. Margolin '99 Lecture in Environmental Affairs: Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Biological Diversity, Kieran Suckling. The Center for Biological Diversity is a unique non-profit that works primarily through the Endangered Species Act and the judicial system to meet conservation goals. Suckling established and oversees the nation's most extensive endangered species list.

In his talk, "Saving Life on Earth: A Moral Rejoinder to the Anthropocene," Suckling spoke about the literally earthshattering impact humanity has had on the planet with our cities, agriculture and waste overpowering natural forces, and how this has precipitated the idea of calling our geological period the Anthropocene.

Suckling opined that the most egregious and unethical environmental consequence of human activity is the rapid mass decline of species that, before the nineteenth-century, had persisted through millions of years of great environmental flux. He drew attention to the fact that thousands of species are currently on the verge of extinction at rates up to 10,000 times the natural rate. He warned that the earth is heading toward its sixth-mass extinction, an unprecedented catastrophe because one dominant species, Homo sapiens, are its sole instigators.

The speaker argued that naming this

geological age after ourselves would intensify anthropocentrism, exacerbating mankind's sense of exclusive entitlement over the earth. Suckling pointed out that referring to this era in human terms is not an innovative answer to ecological destruction, but an excuse for reinforcing and exerting human superiority.

"Anthropocene thinking is the cause of the extinction crisis, not its solution," he said.

Suckling stressed that enormous population growth will rapidly increase biodiversity loss in the near future as development to accommodate the increasing number of people pushes further into dwindling wild habitat. He emphasized the prime moral imperative of preserving natural spaces and the nonhumans that inhabit them. He stated that because animal agriculture is the most ecologically harmful human activity, the most effective step to counter environmental degradation as an individual is to renounce meat.

"Forget the Prius; buy a Hummer and eat a carrot. You'll do a lot more for the planet that way," he joked.

Before his presentation, Suckling had met with a group of environmental studies faculty and staff, and dropped in on Klyza's American Environmental Politics class. The professor expressed his satisfaction with the speaker's visit to campus and the turnout at the event despite the difficult weather.

"Suckling had a full and good visit to campus—even in the midst of a major snow storm! It was a great testament to our students," Klyza said.

The biggest takeaway for conservation biology major, Jeannie Bartlett '15, was Suckling's perspective on reconciling conservation with the needs of marginalized human groups in the face of land scarcity created by corporations.

"He encouraged us to reframe the perceived conflict so that both conservationists and indigenous people work together against the corporate power structures that have pitted those groups against each other," she said. "We have already begun to see that kind of collaboration in resistance of the Keystone XL Pipeline where climate activists and First Nations people in Canada and the U.S. have recognized their shared goals and formed a powerful movement."

"Forget the Prius; buy a Hummer and eat a carrot. You'll do a lot more for the planet that way."

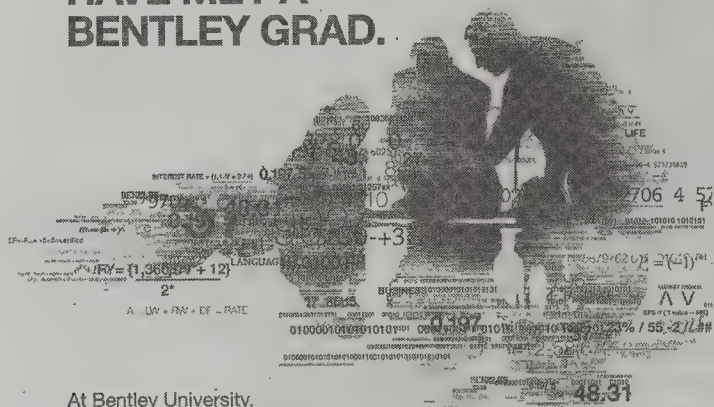
KIERAN SUCKLING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
THE CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

because from what I've read they are very strategic, tenacious and successful," she said.

Suckling encouraged the audience to think about the repercussions of human dominance over homes of species we are encroaching upon. We left with a profound appreciation for the fundamental reality that our own survival hinges on theirs. He set the stage for a discussion about what we must actively do to curb this ecological disaster, beyond merely playing with new names to characterize an urgent historical problem.

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ARTS & SCIENCES

The Middlebury Campus

"The Swing Express" Promises Excitement

By Mthobisi Sibandze

If there is one thing to remember about the end of the roaring '20s, besides the collapse of the economy, it is the Lindy Hop. Jazz was flourishing and swing dance was already on its way. While the general population often imagines the Lindy Hop as the definition of swing, a plethora of other complex swing dance styles were created from the 1930's to the '60s. The Charleston, Blues, East Coast Swing, West Coast Swing and the Boogie-Woogie developed as fine forms that augmented the repertoire of swing dance tradition and remain integral parts of it to this day.

A group of individuals has taken swing to the next level of artistic expression by carrying on this richly historic dance tradition. Filled with energy, vivacity and gaiety, the College's Swing Dance Club is led by President Eleni Polychroniadou '14 and Co-Presidents Melanie Dennis '14 and Timothy Fraser '16. As proved during the excellent swing showcase at the International Student Organization Fall Cultural Show, it is the improvisational nature of the dance and communication between the lead and the follow that makes swing look simultaneously intimidating and exciting.

The Swing Dance Club has put on more shows in each successive year, and this year, they are putting on their most ambitious show to date.

"It is [the] third swing show of its type, but it is the biggest swing dance performance we have ever done," Fraser said.

Without giving too much away, the show will contain fourteen different acts, each lasting between three and four minutes. The story begins with a group of friends who decide to take a journey on a train, The Swing Express, and each act depicts a different scene in a different carriage.

As this is the biggest show to date, there is a lot of effort needed to overcome unprecedented challenges.

"Each of the acts [will] have anywhere between two to fourteen dancers, which is a lot to coordinate," Fraser said.

In preparation for the show, each of the three leaders is directing five pieces and teaching a sixth. This requires that they meet with the dancers weekly for two hours per piece. As challenging as this has proven, Polychroniadou, Dennis and Fraser feel very confident that they are the best locomotive engineers for piloting the Swing Express.

"It's going to be such a fantastic show," Dennis said. "We're proud of the work."

The show will also include a number of pleasant surprises. The club is experimenting with the fusion of jazz with modern techno, and with some elements of Indian music on top of the traditional Lindy Hop, Blues and Charleston. The incredible variety of styles and scenarios are important elements to pay attention to during the performance.

"It is interesting and very creative," Fraser said. "You would not think that such synthesis works for swing dance, but it really does."

The club is also working to involve members of the community in the show.

"It has worked better than we thought," Polychroniadou said. "And we will have little swing dancers from Bridport Central School."

The popularity of swing is, to a large extent, due to the remarkable flexibility and extemporaneity of the dance form.

"Swing is not really choreographed and that allows you to express yourself in a unique way because each person can bring their personality to the dance," Polychroniadou said.

The popularity of the Colleges' Swing Club has increased over the years since Polychroniadou took over as president. Currently they hold two practice sessions in the McCullough Social Space, one on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. for beginners and 8:30 p.m. for intermediates. The second session is a free dance on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

"It is a great opportunity to bring that goofy inner self out," Dennis said.

Polychroniadou believes that part of the current attraction stems from the Swing Club's emphasis on a sense of community, which did not exist when she started in the fall of 2010. She believes that swing is not just about mastering the art of dance, but also meeting people and communicating with them in an unconventional manner by dancing instead of speaking.

"It's about developing a spontaneous conversation through movement with another person," Polychroniadou said. "Meeting other people, interacting with them and getting to know them in a way that is different from ordinary spoken conversation are exciting."

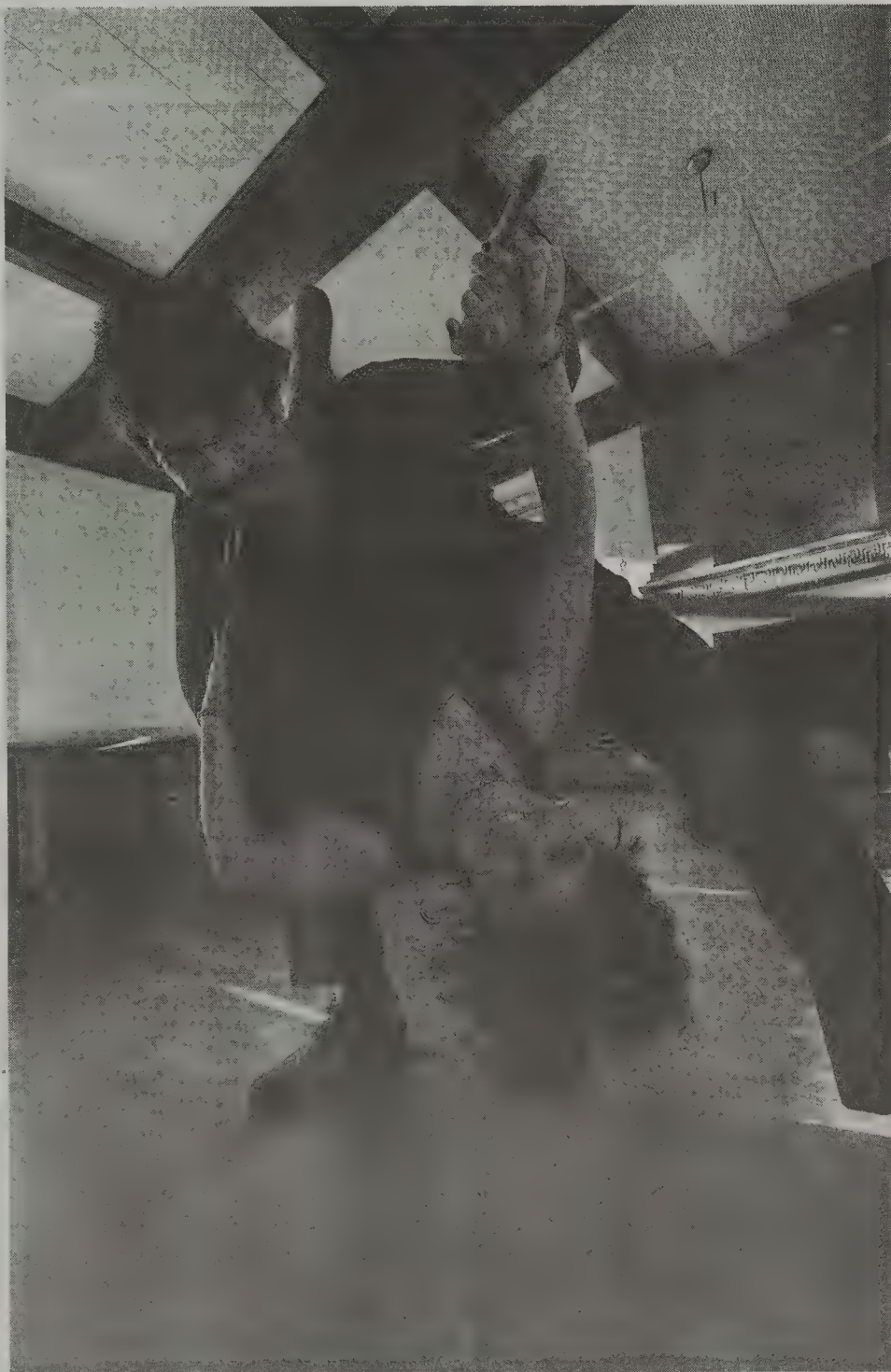
Most performers have had no experience before coming to college, and Polychroniadou, Fraser and Dennis all started dancing in their freshman years. Some of the performers only started during the J-term Swing Dance Workshop.

"One of the nice things about the show is that it has allowed us to work with a whole new group of beginners as well as people who have done swing before and have not been in it for a while," Fraser said.

Dennis believes that the community connection is conducive to progress.

"Anyone up there on stage could be you in a year or a semester or even a month," Dennis said.

All of the money collected from The Swing Express will be donated to the Charter House, one of six volunteer-based programs run by a local non-profit organization called Charter House Coalition. The Charter House program provides emergency housing for up to five



Alumni Colby Horn and Katie Manduca '13.5 polish their dancing and strike a pose.

families during winter and early spring months November to April. These families are not only provided with shelter, but with counseling and child-care services.

The resident families often have energetic and curious children who often feel limited to the indoor areas with little to do. A project to build a playground,

which will provide an environment and opportunity for these children to play, amuse themselves and cultivate their curiosity, is underway. Polychroniadou believes that community service is a rewarding activity.

"We like the idea of supporting and giving back to the local community," she said.

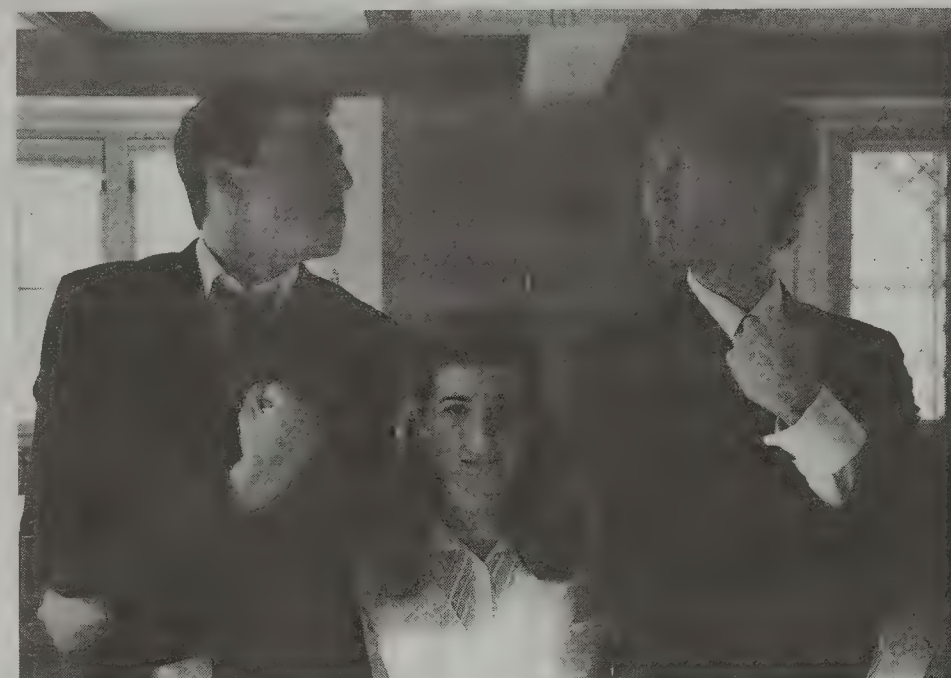
As for the dancers, they also benefit from the marvelous feats they will be performing through a deep sense of fulfillment and accomplishment. Love, commitment and dedication are imperative to getting a full swing experience that is truly rewarding.

"We do swing because we love it," Polychroniadou said. "We do nothing else with our time."

"Absolutely nothing," Dennis added.

The grand spectacle should not be missed by anyone who craves an evening of fun and swingtacular delights. The Swing Express will only make one journey for the rest of the academic year. To join in the fun, catch the Swing Express just before it departs on April 11 in at 8 p.m. in the McCullough Social Space.

Tickets are already available for \$5 and \$8 through the Box Office for students and other community members, respectively. They will also be sold for the same prices at the door.



Eleni Polychroniadou '14 is stuck amid Mike McCann '15 and Aaron Kano-Bower '15.

**DON'T
MISS
THIS**

Scotty Hardwig

Freelance artist and performer Scotty Hardwig will be on campus as a guest instructor for Movement and Media, a course taught by Christal Brown. As a part of his residency, he will give a free lecture on telematics and interactivity as they interface with the body.

3/20, 12:30 P.M., DANCE THEATER, CFA

Performance Now Screenings

Two films will be screened in conjunction with the current Museum of Art exhibition *Performance Now*. Liz Magic Laser's 2011 film *I Feel Your Pain* will be followed by *Ukungenisa*, a 2008 piece by Nandipha Mntambo. Free.

3/20, 7:30 P.M., AXINN CENTER, ROOM 232

Gerry Dineen

One-man band Gerry Dineen is a live looping solo artist with a repertoire spanning over four decades. Combined with guitar effects, Dineen creates tones, rhythm and instrumentation on the spot, amazing audiences at what he can create without the assistance of recordings.

3/20, 9 P.M., 51 MAIN

Students Read People's History

By Ben Anderson

The stories we tell ourselves about our own past are the result of hundreds of voices — both named and otherwise — coming together to paint a picture. Each voice has its own volume and each listener comes with their own biases, so these pictures of our past are just that: only pictures. As time marches on, the quieter or disenfranchised voices fall to the side, and it falls on our shoulders to seek out these stories in order to better understand the past.

On April 9, Middlebury students will put on "Voices of the People's History of the United States," reading passages from historian Howard Zinn's book filled with letters and speeches by people intimately involved in the social movement history of the United States.

The event is co-produced by Assistant Professor of Sociology Jamie McCallum and Visiting Assistant Professor of Theater Dana Yeaton and is co-sponsored by the history, sociology, political science and English departments and The Oratory Society. It will open with a lecture by Francis Fox Piven, world-renowned sociologist and political scientist of social movements and a longtime friend of Zinn.

"She was invoked by Glenn Beck a few years ago for developing a plan to try and undermine American capitalism," McCallum said. "He did a multi-part series about it. But her 'plot,' so to speak, was actually quite old by that time. She

was well-known in the '60s and '70s and now she's famous again, largely because of [Beck] in some weird way."

While McCallum comes to this event from the stand point of a sociologist, Yeaton hopes to emphasize the performance aspect.

"Last spring, [McCallum] and I worked together on a reading of MLK's 'Letter from the Birmingham Jail,'" Yeaton said in an email. "So I was excited when he proposed a follow up project. And because of The Oratory Society, I knew we had students who could bring the speeches to life. These speeches are the defini-

tion of theatrical: each one was calibrated, not just to capture and hold attention, but to provoke its audience into action. And of course, it's a live solo performance, which is always a high-wire act."

Students will read different stories from the Howard Zinn piece in order to frame the history of American social activism in a way that uses the voices of those directly involved.

The book was the primary source companion to Zinn's book "The People's History of the United States," which was written in 1980 to tell the story of the United States through the voices of the common people, not the economic and political elites that often dominate textbooks.

"Because that book ends in the early 21st-century," McCallum said, "we'll find a few more things from the last ten years to fill in the gaps. We may add something from Occupy Wall Street such as a speech that was given there." McCallum added

that the program for the event has not been finalized, and that what will be added is not fully known yet.

"There was a student-run course over J-term called the People's History of Middlebury that culminated in a panel discussion with two '70s radicals who were Middlebury students," he said. "We may have something read from that as well."

The show is not unique to Middlebury and has been performed countless times throughout the country.

"The reason this show is done so often is that these words — spoken well, with full understanding — have enormous intellectual and emotional power," Yeaton said. "They rattle us. They remind us of our ideals and our hypocrisies. So I'm excited to be in the room and watch these words hit home."

The hosts of the event hope, just as Zinn did, to give a voice to those who may not always be heard in a retelling of American history. While history books may focus on the romanticized stories of our Founding Fathers, they often glance over the blood and strife that went into this country's founding and the fact that many of them were slave-owners. Stories about the struggles of labor movements and civil rights activism often become clouded by the political leanings of those telling them. This event aims to give voices to all involved. The book itself includes selections by people such as Frederick Douglass, Henry David Thoreau, Malcolm X and Allen Ginsberg.

"It's history from below," McCallum said. "You could do a people's sociology of the United States if you wanted to. The benefit of getting those voices is not just that they're diverse, but people tell truths from their own perspectives and unless you're getting all of them, you're not getting the full story."

The event will take place on April 9 from 7 – 10 p.m. in the Abernethy Room.

"The benefit of getting those voices is not just that they're diverse, but people tell truths from their own perspectives and unless you're getting all of them, you're not getting the full story."

ONE LIFE LEFT

BY CHAPIN BOYER

In 2013, Harebrained Schemes kick-started Shadowrun: Returns, their first title. Billed as a successor to the classic SNES game, Shadowrun Returns offered up two main options for players: they could create their own content using the built-in story editor, or they could play the campaigns released by Harebrained Schemes. The game's first story, Dead Man's Switch felt a little empty. With no fixed party for the player to interact with and a fairly linear story, player choice felt limited and not particularly meaningful. It still provided an entertaining story set in an interesting universe, but it did not make me feel like I had much impact on the story.

Shadowrun Returns' new campaign, however, does. Entitled Dragonfall, the new story not only improves upon the foundation that Dead Man's Switch laid, but also presents one of the most engaging stories I have ever experienced in a game. The beginning of the game is standard enough. The player creates a character who can be one of five races (human, elf, dwarf, ork, troll), and picks one of six premade classes (Street Samurai, Mage, Decker, Shaman, Rigger, Physical Adept) or creates their own. The setup to the story is that the player character has gotten themselves into trouble in their old home city, and flees to Berlin at the behest of their old friend Monika. What exactly that trouble is and why the player character decided to head to Berlin can be decided by the player in later conversations. Without giving too much away, the first mission sets up the dynamic between the player and their fellow Shadowrunners (the name given to elite mercenaries who undertake dangerous and often dirty jobs), and gives the player an introduction to the turn-based combat system. Everything seems to go off without a hitch, until unforeseen circumstances force the player to take command of the team of

Shadowrunners, as well as the neighborhood that they live in.

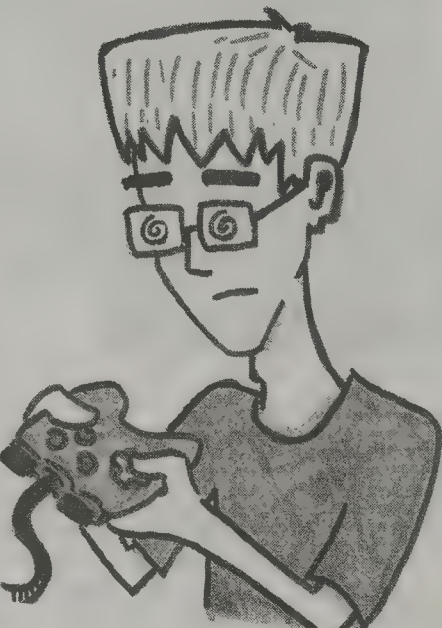
This setup is where Dragonfall really shines. Their characters are some of the best-written in the business, and the neighborhood and its inhabitants come to life as you explore it. Within an hour of play time, I felt completely responsible for these people, and each decision I made after that point felt weighty and nerve-wracking. It helped that Dragonfall also throws your small team into a highly dangerous conflict that they have almost no hope of surviving. With these high stakes and the well-presented characters and choices, Dragonfall immersed me in the world in a way that few other games of the genre have. I stuck by my decisions, and I made them because I thought they were the best calls, not to fill out a karma slider or to get the best ending. With no alignment system and with well-written protagonist dialogue, I felt like a part of the world, and a part of that struggle.

Unfortunately, while immersion is where Dragonfall really shines, it is also where it has some trouble. Shadowrun Returns is set in the same universe as the long-running tabletop game Shadowrun. As such, the game possesses an extensive background fiction which is often not properly explained. Acronyms and terms are thrown around with no explanation, and even the gameplay seems to assume that you understand the way the tabletop works. While the game does tell you that only experienced players should attempt to create their own class, it also does a poor job explaining what it means to be a Decker, or how a Street Samurai can be effective out of combat, or why I would specialize in pistols instead of assault rifles. While many RPGs struggle with teaching the player how to build a character, it can be especially frustrating in Shadowrun Returns when combined with the somewhat confusing backstory of that universe.

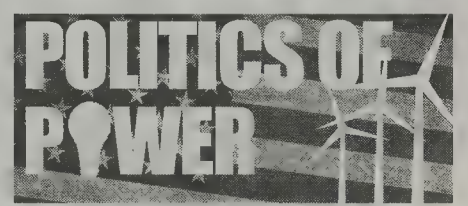
That being said, those issues are not

anywhere near large enough to hurt this game all that much. They are merely a small blemish on an otherwise excellent experience, one that people versed in Shadowrun lore will not have to worry about. I personally opened up a wiki in another window and took a look at that when I really needed something explained, or just gleaned the important information from the dialogue.

Shadowrun Returns offers players quite a bit. The starting package includes the suite of creation tools as well as the Dead Man's Switch campaign for a cool \$19.99. The Dragonfall expansion costs another \$14.99 on top of that, and gives the player a new campaign and the content creator some new toys to play with. While the original package easily justifies its expense with a decent campaign in Dead Man's Switch and a suite of campaign design tools, Dragonfall seals the deal, even as it brings the price up. If you are a fan of Bioware games, the Shadowrun tabletop game or RPGs in general, this is not one to miss.



NOLAN ELLSWORTH



By Cullen Coleman

As the political situation continues to develop in the Crimean peninsula, there have been frenzied calls among American politicians to break Russia's energy dominance in the region. The principle idea is to leverage the burgeoning North American shale revolution by exporting natural gas to continental Europe and weaken a key facet of Russian power. However, though there is abundant natural gas in North America, the complex export infrastructure in America that is needed to ship liquefied natural gas is still years away from being completed at any meaningful scale. In addition, many of the terminals that are closest to being completed have already inked long-term gas contracts with customers. Even if European politicians wish to flood their markets with cheap American gas — as the ambassadors to the United States from Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia asked for in a letter to congressional leaders — they would still have to compete with Asian customers who are willing to pay nearly 50 percent more than Europe. Fundamentally, regardless of the political posturing, gas producers would never choose to leave money on the table in order to further American geopolitical aims.

As I talked about in an earlier column, with an eye towards the long-term, the shale revolution has the potential to alter political and economic policies around the world. But with regards to the current circumstances in the Ukraine, America simply cannot help besieged allies by making it easier to export natural gas. This does not mean America has no way to exert influence through global energy markets. There are two separate and specific tools that the U.S. can immediately lean on to disrupt the current status quo in Europe.

The first of these tools is the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) located in both Louisiana and Texas, which currently holds 696 million barrels of government-owned crude oil. With oil and gas making up more than half of Russia's budget revenues and a budget that is only balanced when oil remains at \$110 a barrel, Moscow is vulnerable to price shocks. By releasing a mere 500,000 barrels a day from the SPR, prices could fall by about \$10 and cost the Russian government roughly \$40 billion in annual sales. The U.S. government could maintain this for years if it wanted to, and could drop about 4 percent off Russia's GDP.

The other option is something we are already doing and have been doing for years but is not high on the Obama administration's agenda nor is it palatable to his counterparts in Europe: cheap, plentiful American coal. As natural gas prices fell in the U.S. and electrical generation began to switch to cleaner, more efficient gas, King Coal lost its leading role in the American electrical generation portfolio. The U.S. set a record in 2012 for coal exports — with the majority already going to Europe's remaining coal-fired power plants. The infrastructure for exporting coal is already in place and, unlike natural gas, coal is not governed by antiquated and complicated U.S. export regulation. The obvious downside to increased coal consumption is that when burned for power it releases roughly twice the amount of greenhouse gas as natural gas does.

As Europe continues to struggle with shifting power structures and long-term questions about their energy security, European leaders cannot rely on these stop-gap measures. In order to reestablish economic competitiveness and continue to set the benchmark for climate change goals, Europe needs to look within its own borders to find the solutions to these problems. However, right now, in this current situation, American and European leaders need to be examining all of their options to see what will have an effect at the negotiating table.

**Thought the road was finished?
Think again.**

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the Season Finale**

THE ROAD TO
SALEM

THE MIDDLEBURY BASKETBALL STORY

**And catch up on all the
episodes you missed at
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Women's Lacrosse Wins Home Opener

By Gabe Weissmann

The Middlebury women's lacrosse team continued its early-season success on Saturday, March 15, winning its home opener over Wesleyan by a score of 10-4.

After a scoreless first 12 minutes of the game, Liza Herzog '14 broke the tie with a goal off of a free position shot. Wesleyan quickly struck back 12 seconds later off of an unassisted goal from Caitlin Daniels to tie the game up at 1-1.

After another respite in scoring action, Middlebury's Laurel Pascal '16 was finally able to finish an opportunity off of a pass from Herzog. This spark was followed by Middlebury goals from Alli Sciarretta '16 with a free position shot and Mary O'Connell '17 off of a pass from Bridget Instrum '16.

Middlebury's goals were quickly answered however off of a pair of goals from Wesleyan's Meredith Smith to finish the half with a score of 4-3. With the momentum in its favor, Wesleyan came out firing and tied up the game at 4-4 off of another goal from Smith three minutes into the second half.

Tough defense, however, and key saves between the pipes from co-Captain Alyssa Palomba '14 allowed the Panthers to withstand the Wesleyan offensive and turn the tide of the game in their favor with another goal from Pascal with 17 minutes left in the game. Pascal was able to follow that score up with two more finishes for the Panthers — one unassisted and one assisted by Katie Ritter '15 — to put the Panthers up 7-4.

After Pascal's goal, the Panthers kept the gas on the pedal and never looked back. Middlebury was able to keep the pressure on the Cardinals with two goals from Herzog and a goal from O'Connell, all of which were unassisted. By the final whistle, the Panthers had extended the lead to the final tally of 10-4.

"This week we really focused on our transitions and playing as a unit on attack, which we were able to translate to our game on Saturday," Pascal said. "Everyone was making smart decisions all over the field and we were able to find the holes in their defense, which was awesome."

Middlebury was paced on the offensive end by Pascal, who finished with four goals. Herzog finished with three goals and an assist, and first-year standout O'Connell added a pair of goals. Palomba finished the day in net with a 42.8 save percentage, recording three saves during the game.

Smith led the Cardinals with three goals. Wesleyan goalkeeper Nina Labovich helped keep the score relatively close by stopping 10 of the 20 shots on goal throughout the game.

Middlebury's dominant offensive performance was representative on the stats sheet, as the Panthers outshot the Cardinals 26-13. Middlebury also held a slight advantage in ground balls and controlled 11 of 16 draws for the afternoon.

Middlebury returned to action on Tuesday, March 18, for a midweek matchup with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, defeating the host Engineers 11-8.



PAUL GERARD

Bridget Instrum '16 skirts around the perimeter of the goal area in the Panthers' 10-4 win over conference opponent Wesleyan on Saturday, March 15.

After RPI got on the scoreboard first, Middlebury responded with a pair of goals from Chrissy Ritter '16 to take the lead. The Engineers then went on a four-goal scoring run to take a 4-3 lead midway through the first half, before a trio of Panther goals, including two from Pascal, put Middlebury in front going into the half.

In the second half, the Panthers used a flurry of scoring to extend their lead, ultimately going on to win.

Pascal led the Panthers with three goals in the game, with Katie Ritter, Chrissy Ritter and Herzog each adding two for Middlebury.

With the win over Rensselaer, Middlebury extends its record to 4-0 on the season, including a trio of conference wins. The Panthers return to the pitch on Saturday, March 22, for a conference matchup with Bowdoin. The Polar Bears are owners of a 3-2 record and should provide stiff competition for Middlebury.

Following that, the Panthers will travel to West Palm Beach, Fla. over Spring Break for a game against Rochester Institute of Technology before returning to face the remainder of their NESCAC schedule.

Track Experiences Major Highs and Lows at NAAs

By Fiona Maloney-McCrystle

The indoor track and field team sent 10 Panther athletes to the NCAA Championship meet on March 14 and 15 at the Devaney Center in Lincoln, Nebraska, where over the course of the two-day event the squad competed in three individual events and two relays.

The men's 4x400 meter relay team consisting of Fritz Parker '15, Bryan Holtzman '14, Alex Nichols '17 and Peter Hetzler '14 took to the track in the first heat of a three section final after

qualifying for the 12th spot in the event. From the gun, the Panthers were gapped by their opponents and had to work to make up ground over the course of the race, finally finishing in fourth in their section and 12th in the overall event with a time of 3:19.88.

Holtzman ran the second leg for the Panthers.

"I wasn't able to hunt down other competitors like I had in weeks past because of the quality of competition," Holtzman said. "That's part of being at NAAs. If we had been with the rest of our heat, we definitely would have run faster."

"It takes a lot just to get into the NCAA meet, and I was honored to be a part of it and to go with such a great group of teammates," Parker said.

Holtzman believes that the 4x400 team has more to give.

"I think we have more in us and can achieve higher," he said. "It will only make us more hungry for the spring season."

On the women's side, the distance medley relay team of Alison Maxwell '15, Jackie Kearney '16, Alex Morris '16 and Erzsie Nagy '17 entered their race as the sixth seed. Maxwell got the team off to a

good start when she ran a smooth opening 1200-meter leg, handing the baton off at the back of the lead pack. Kearney kept the squad in the race as the group began to string out during the 400-meter leg, handing off to Morris for the 800-meter portion of the relay where she kept the team in contention for an All-American finish. Nagy received the baton in 10th place at the beginning of her 1600-meter anchor leg, pulling the team up to a seventh place finish when she crossed the line with the clock reading 11:44.95.

"The Williams anchor, Kaleigh Kenny, was out in front of me chasing down the lead pack of seven runners," Nagy said. "I wanted to catch up to Kaleigh and let her pull me through and up to the lead group. It worked out well, since a few runners fell off the pack so I moved up into seventh."

The team's finish marked the fifth year in a row that Middlebury has earned All-American honors in the women's DMR event.

"Our team was so completely thrilled," Nagy said. "We finished All-American, which was what we all were hoping for. Even though we were seeded sixth and finished seventh, we dropped three seconds from our best time."

Of the three Panther individuals to compete in the meet, Laura Strom '14.5 was the only field athlete, entering the high jump with the top mark in the country. On the day of competition, Strom finished with a 'No Height' when she was unable to clear the bar in the first round of jumps.

On the track, Morris also took to the line to compete in the 400, where she took 17th in the opening heats in a time of 58.36 and did not qualify for the finals in the event.

Wilder Schaaf '14.5 was the lone male individual to compete for the Panther squad with his performance in the mile. Schaaf managed to qualify out of the preliminary heats on Friday, making it into the finals based on time. He finished in ninth place overall on Saturday, running a time of 4:10.99 and narrowly missing All-American status by .11 seconds in a race where all but one member of the field crossed the finish line as a tight pack.

With the final chapter of indoor season closed, the team as a whole turns to outdoor action for the spring, with competition beginning over spring break at Point Loma Nazarene in southern California.

BY THE NUMB3RS

-61

The combined shot margin for men's lacrosse in their first three NESCAC games, all losses.

Total number of miles travelled by Middlebury sports teams (one-way) to their Spring Break destinations.

9,934

4:50

Mile split for Erzsie Nagy '17 in the Distance Medley relay at NAAs, the fastest split in the field.

Estimated ad revenue — in billions of dollars — that will be generated by the upcoming NCAA men's Division I basketball tournament.

1.2

0

Amount of that money that will be paid to NCAA athletes.

EDITORS' PICKS



ALEX MORRIS (39-33, 542)



FRITZ PARKER (39-42, 481)



JOE MACDONALD (33-39, 458)

Who will win the spring-break women's tennis showdown between Middlebury and Claremont?

CLAREMONT

We'd like to formally apologise for the lack of quality in Editor's Picks lately. We promise to be funnier.

MIDDLEBURY

We know this is the only part of the sports section that most of y'all read...

MIDDLEBURY

You guys can crack jokes. I'm here to make good picks. Record not withstanding.

Will baseball win its three-game series with Williams over break?

NO

Sorry Joe Mac. Prove me wrong.

NOPE

It's hard to practice for baseball games when there's a foot of snow on the ground.

YES

I can't really give a different answer. But seriously, we're hungry. It's on Alex.

Closest to: how many games will men's lacrosse team win over Spring Break?

TWO

My mom always said that I was too optimistic.

ZERO

I've been making up a lot of ground picking against men's lax recently.

ONE

Three tough games, but I think spring break will be the start of the turn around for lax.

Pick 'em: #8 Memphis vs. #9 GW in the second round of March Madness?

MEMPHIS

The NCAA forbids me from betting on March Madness results, so we'll just call this an "educated guess"

GW

I picked Memphis on my bracket, but my bracket is always wrong.

MEMPHIS

Derrick Rose is really special.

Men's Lacrosse Suffers Third Consecutive NESCAC Defeat

By Courtney Mountifield

The Middlebury men's lacrosse team lost to 10th-ranked Wesleyan by a score of 11-5 on Saturday, March 15. Middlebury has yet to reach double digit goals in any of its four games.

The Panthers got off to a quick start against the Cardinals. Only 2:31 into the game, Taylor Pirie '15 found Mike Ford '15 to get Middlebury on the scoreboard first; however, Wesleyan responded in a powerful way, scoring the next 10 goals to take a 10-1 lead with 11:38 left in the game. In the final 10:49, Jack Rautiola '16 managed to score twice, Ford took his tally to two, and Jon Broome '16 scored his lone goal for the game.

One player heavily influenced the Cardinals' goal total. On the Wesleyan side, Matt Prezioso had an impressive showing on his home turf, scoring five of the 11 total goals.

There were some highlights from the loss for the Panthers though. Jack DeFrino '17 won nine of 12 face offs, earning him game-high honors in ground balls alongside George Curtis '14 and Broome. In addition, goalie Nate Gaudio '14 finished the contest with a total of 19 saves.

Ford admitted that the team has a long way to go to get where it wants to be.

"Everyone played hard against Wesleyan," Ford said, "but I think we all realized that we need to improve and work even harder. I don't think we have played a complete game yet and that is something that we continue to strive for. As a team we learned that we need to elevate out level of playing from top to bottom and do everything better. After watching film and learning from our coaches, everyone knows they need

to step up and contribute more going forward."

Returning to the field on Tuesday, March 18, for a matchup against 20th-ranked St. Lawrence, the Panthers again were unable to stop their opponent on the defensive end and lost by a score of 14-7.

Middlebury was able to keep the score close early, tying the score at one with a goal from Jack Cleary '16 three minutes in. A tally from Rautiola in the opening minutes of the second quarter brought the St. Lawrence lead back down to one at 4-3, but that was as close as the Panthers would get.

A string of four unanswered goals spanning the second and third quarters would be too much for Middlebury, who went on to lose its third straight game.

Middlebury was again outshot handily by their opponent. St. Lawrence racked up 45 shots over the course of the game to Middlebury's 24. The Saints also dominated in the faceoff circle and in the ground-ball game, winning 17 of 23 faceoffs and picking up 13 more ground balls than the Panthers.

In the upcoming games, Ford that thinks their "main focus will be to come out with high intensity but also be composed. If everyone does what they need to do and our team plays at the level we know we are capable of playing, good things will happen."

Sitting at 1-4 and 0-3 in conference play, Middlebury will have to work quickly to pull its game together if they are going to have a chance to resurrect their floundering season.

The Panthers will have a chance to do just that when they take on NESCAC foe Bowdoin on Saturday, March 22. Following that game, Middlebury will

face a tough slate of competition over Spring Break, matching up with Endicott and Amherst over the course of the week.

THE MIDDLEBURY GREAT EIGHT

RANKING	TEAM	Alex's Assertions
1	WOMEN'S LACROSSE	Three convincing wins to start off the season
2	TRACK & FIELD	Some disappointing results, but ten athletes at NCAAs is a huge accomplishment
3	WOMEN'S TENNIS	These girls are looking sharp
4	MEN'S LACROSSE	It hasn't been a great start to the season
5	SPRING BREAK	I've been dreaming of San Diego sun for months
6	YOU CAN PLAY VIDEO	Some good-looking athletes and a noble cause
7	JOE MAC	Baseball practice is a great excuse to skip editing
8	SNOWSTORM VULCAN	I spent fourteen hours travelling to Nebraska, thanks a lot Vulcan.

LEAVE IT ON THE TRACK

As I lay tossing and turning last Thursday night in our Omaha hotel, I finally fell into a shallow sleep. Suddenly I was on the line for the 400 meters, in front of thousands of people. The gun had gone off and I was running smoothly. I saw the whole race ahead of me, and with every meter I was growing in confidence. I had passed the top-seeded runner on the final turn and when I dipped my chest over the line I saw 55 seconds flash onto the board. Everything had gone perfectly. And then I woke up. Sometimes our dreams have their happy endings, but many times they do not. It is how we learn to deal with the disappointment that makes us stronger, faster and better.

My dream did not have its happy ending this time. After finally making it to the 2014 NCAA Indoor Track & Field Championships in Lincoln, Nebraska a day late due to snowstorm Vulcan, I could already feel nerves building. This was not my first nationals; I had come last year as a member of a phenomenal distance medley relay team. As a fresh-faced first-year and the 400-meter runner in the relay, I had let the older senior girls take care of me. Now I was alone. As a qualifier for the 400 individually as well as the now 800-meter runner for the distance medley relay, there was no one to hold my hand. I had to deal with the expectations I had created for myself.

I have always considered myself a competitor and never had I been hungrier for a win. But sometimes no matter how driven, how focused, how ready we might feel, fate takes a different direction. Sitting in the bullpen minutes before the race, I was surrounded by sixteen other girls just as hungry as I was and most more experienced. Although there was barely space for us to move, I felt so alone.

Sometimes before even stepping onto the line, I know that I am going to have a bad race. But this was not one of those times, I felt like I had it all in me. But as soon as the gun went off, it just did not click. The girls were too strong and fast right from the start, and as a runner that thrives in the second lap by chasing people down, they were already too far out of my grasp for me to even think that was a reality. I am never in my head during a 400, but this time, the whole second lap I could not stop thinking about how much I had messed up. I had let a great opportunity literally run away from me. Reality does not get much harsher than finishing in dead last place.

I could only weakly hug my mom and my coaches who did their best find the positives in my race. I couldn't even tell them where it had gone wrong. I had not felt weak, tired, or slow. Sometimes the race just gets the best of you. My teammates knew that no words could make me feel better; they had all been there before. We all have those days, but I was kicking myself that one of those days had to be on the national stage.

The individual nature of track is both my favorite and sometimes the hardest thing about being a runner. Success is solely mine, but so is that failure. When you set such high expectations for yourself, it is hard not to be disappointed. We must take ownership of our actions, and make sure that a loss is not our downfall but rather just one hurdle on the road to greatness. As much as I wanted to beat myself up about what I could have done better, less than three hours later I was running in the distance medley relay - running for three other girls that deserved glory collectively more than I deserved it individually. And receiving All-American honors was a great way to bounce back.

It is so hard to not get in your head, to define yourself based on your latest race. But I came into Middlebury having never run indoor track, never having run under 60 seconds, and unsure how I would be able to prove myself. Going into that Friday race, I should not have lost sight of how much I had accomplished from that starting point. I will always be disappointed with what happened in that race, but I cannot help but be proud of how much I achieved, especially this season, just to be able to be in that 400.

For now, there is nothing to do but move on. I am ready to do anything to earn that spot again on the 400 starting line, this time on the outdoor track. Then, maybe my dream will have its happy ending.

-Alex Morris '16 is a sports editor from London, England.

Women's Tennis Stays Perfect against MIT

By Emma McDonald

The sixth-ranked Middlebury women's tennis team grabbed another home win this weekend before its spring break trip in California, beating 17th-ranked MIT 7-2. Middlebury started off the match strong with doubles wins by pairs Alexandra Fields '17 and Jennifer Sundstrom '17 and Lauren Amos '16 and Margot Marchese '16. Head Coach Mike Morgan commended the first-years for their strong performance in a tough situation.

"[Jennifer Sundstrom] and Alexandra Fields both did a great job," Morgan said. "Both freshmen fighting off match points is big."

Leading 2-1, the Panthers moved into singles play, dominating again with five wins and just one loss. Ria Genger '16, Kaysee Orozco '17, Margot Marchese '16, Dorrie Paradies '14 and Fields each won in straight sets to boost the Panthers over the Engineers 7-1. The Panthers gave up just one point in singles in the No. 6 spot when Sadie Shackelford '16 lost to Krystal Lai in three sets.

"The point was to try and get a match that would challenge us a bit to get ready for spring break because we play three top-10 teams while we're out there," Morgan said, "So I think it was perfect to get us ready for that next level."

The win has prepared the Panthers to head into their spring break trip in California with confidence and an undefeated record.

They will head to California next weekend for five matches against west-coast teams Pomona-Pitzer, UC-Santa Cruz, Claremont McKenna, Westmont, and the University of Chicago, all in

the course of a week. Assistant Coach Victoria Aiello '12 highlighted a few of the possible challenges for the trip.

"The one curveball might be that it is going to be our first time playing outside and we have a match the second day that we get there," Aiello said, "so that's definitely going to be a challenge that we're going to have to work through as

we go."

The Panthers will start off their five-match week of against Pomona-Pitzer on March 22, a challenging match not only because the team has had some big wins recently, but also because of the vastly different environment.

"Because it's our first time playing outside and right off the jet lag, I think [our game against Pomona/Pitzer] will

be a challenge mentally," Aiello said, "Outside play is a little slower, rallies tend to last longer, and you have all of these other limits: wind, sun, heat."

These differences may be a welcome change for the Panthers, whose plans to shovel off the outdoor courts here at Middlebury were foiled with the snowstorm this past week.

The Panthers will meet two other ranked opponents over spring break, fifth-ranked Claremont McKenna and the 11th-ranked University of Chicago.

The men's tennis team did not have a scheduled NCAA game this weekend, but instead played against a team made up of the 2004 and 2010 championship team members in the "Return of the Champions" weekend. Middlebury won its first men's tennis NCAA title in 2004, and won again in 2010. The weekend should serve as an inspiration to the current team as it heads into its spring break trip in Atlanta, Georgia. The men will play Sewanee on Sunday, March 23.

PANTHER SCOREBOARD

MEN'S LAX at Wesleyan	11-5 ^L	It's been a tough schedule to start the 2014 campaign, but still the men must be disappointed with 1-4.
WOMEN'S TENNIS vs. MIT	7-2 ^W	The women have dominated every match so far. They'll try to keep rolling in Cali over spring break
WOMEN'S LAX vs. Wesleyan	10-4 ^W	At number 3 in the country, the women are looking good
MEN'S LAX vs. St. Lawrence	14-7 ^L	The men haven't landed an easy opponent in a while, but at some point they are going to have to win one of these games.
WOMEN'S LAX at Rensselaer	11-8 ^W	The Panthers keep the ball rolling with a hard-fought win in a midweek game.

EYES ON THE PRIZE

Cat Fowler '15 and the Middlebury women's lacrosse team extended their early-season unbeaten streak with a 10-4 win over NESCAC foe Wesleyan in the snow on Saturday, March 15. See page 18 for full coverage.



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